Senate Group Hears Charge Of Discrimination Against Negro Farmer By AAA Officials In South

WASHINGTON, Mar. 14—(ANP)—Many Negro farmers find it almost impossible to get information from county AAA committeeman in the South and are victims of rank discrimination, a senate agriculture subcommittee heard Friday from spokesmen for the Southern Tenant Farmers union.

F. A. Betton, of Cotton Plant Ark., union vice-president, gave most of the testimony on discrimination. J. R. Butler, white, Memphis, union president, also spoke of the plight of the Negro farmer in detailing conditions among tenant farmers in general.

"It's an insult for the people of my race to ask any questions," Betton said. "The Negro is very much discriminated against, and in some places he can't even ask his landlord about the AAA law. The landlord says, 'Bill, go back to the field and get to work,' and off he goes."

When Senator Wiley of Wisconsin asked if the Negroes could read, Betton replied, "A great many of them can, but they can't understand what they read and sign things without knowing what it is all about."

Butler said there was some discrimination against white tenants but it was more acute where Negroes were concerned. One, George Marberry of near Macon, Miss. was robbed because he questioned a county committeeman about the farm law.

The union went on record as demanding that the federal farm program be revised so as to return thousands of migrant farm laborers to the land. It also proposed restriction of farm benefit payments to any one landowner to $5,000 and requirement that employers of farm labor pay a minimum of 25 cents an hour in order to qualify for the federal subsides.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 4, 1940

AAA GROUP OF 50 WILL TOUR STATE

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 3—(AP)—Interest in Southern agriculture and its problems will bring 50 AAA committeemen of the West to Alabama tomorrow.

The group will arrive in Montgomery on Independence Day and leave Friday morning for a tour through Montgomery, Lee, Macon, and perhaps other counties; then proceed to Columbus, Ga.

A. W. Jones, state AAA administrator, said the Western committeemen, all of them farmers in the extreme Western part of the United States. would be en route to the regional AAA conference in Washington scheduled for July 10, 11 and 12.

Upon reaching Columbus they will be met by Georgia agricultural workers who will conduct them through parts of Georgia.

Tentative arrangements were made for the committeemen to see some of the agriculture of Montgomery County and then go to Tuskegee Institute for a tour of the Negro institution and also a tour of farms in the Notasulga area. The group will be the guests of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn. After inspecting the college and the experiment station the Westerners will proceed by way of Piedmont to Columbus.

A delegation headed by P. O. Davis and Jones, will go with the Western committeemen on the tour

States to be represented on the tour include Arizona, California Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 4, 1940

Forty Farmers From Far West Will Tour State

Triple A Committeemen Arriving In Capital City Tonight

Interest in Southern agriculture and a desire to see some of the Southern farmers' problems will bring between 40 and 50 AAA committeemen of the west to Montgomery and Alabama. The group will arrive in Montgomery today and will leave tomorrow morning for a tour through Montgomery, Lee Macon, and perhaps other counties before proceeding to Columbus, Ga. tomorrow night.

A. W. Jones, State AAA administrator, said the western committeemen, all of them farmers in the extreme western part of the United States, would be en route to the regional AAA conference in Washington scheduled for July 10, 11 and 12. Jones said the committeemen had very little knowledge of the problems affecting people in the Southern States and that they had asked to be routed through this section.

After the group reaches Columbus they will be met by Georgia agricultural workers and will be conducted through parts of Georgia before proceeding to Washington.

Tentative arrangements are being made for the committeemen to see some of the agriculture of Montgomery County and then travel to Tuskegee Institute for a tour of the negro institution and also a tour of farms in the Notasulga area. The group will be the guests of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at a luncheon in the new women's quadrangle. After inspecting the college and the experiment station the group will proceed to see some of the Piedmont before arriving at Columbus.

A delegation, headed by P. O. Davis, and Mr. Jones, will go with the western committeemen on the tour. Others expected to take part in the welcoming of the committeemen are Howard Gray, president of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, J. D. Samford, Emmett Sizemore, and L. L. Self, district supervisors of the Extension Service, O. C. Medlock, State coordinator of the Soil Conservation Service, and others.

Mr. Jones said that several AAA administrators and other AAA workers would be in the group of farmers here for the short visit.

States to be represented on the tour include Arizona, California, Colorado Idaho, Kansas, Montana Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah Washington and Wyoming.

Opelika, Ala. News
July 4, 1940

AAA Group From West To Visit Auburn Friday

Touring South To Study Problems Farmers

Auburn, July 4.—(Special)—Interest in Southern agriculture and a desire to see some of the Southern farmers' problems will bring between 40 and 50 AAA committeemen of the West to Montgomery and Alabama on July 5.

The group will arrive in Montgomery Thursday, July 4 and will leave the next morning for a tour through Montgomery, Lee, Macon, and perhaps other counties before proceeding to Columbus, Ga., that night.

A. W. Jones, state AAA administrator, said the Western committeemen, all of them farmers in the extreme Western part of the United States, would be en route to the reginal AAA conference in Washington scheduled for July 10, 11 and 12. Jones said the committeemen had very little knowldege of the problems affecting people in the Southern States and that they had asked to be routed through this section.

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Mr. Jones said that several AAA administrators and other AAA workers would be in the group of farmers who will be here for the short visit.

States to be represented on the tour include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

7 YEARS OF AAA BRING FARMERS A MEAGER YIELD

Tribune

Cite Mounting Debt, Loss of Independence.

Tribune 8-4-40

Chicago, Ill.

(For seven years the Agricultural Adjustment administration has supervised planned farm society in the United States. To gauge its accomplishments The Tribune sent a reporter into seven farm states and parts of the south. This is the first of his series of articles.)

BY CHARLES LEAVELLE.

After seven years of it, how do farmers of the great central west regard the AAA's federal farm program? Do they want to continue under all or part of it? What AAA provisions do they favor or disfavor?

These questions—and many others—were put to the farmers as they were found at their daily tasks. They were interviewed as they plowed beneath the Iowa sun, or as they milked in dimly lit Minnesota barns.

Each Has An Opinion.

The answers varied widely from section to section and from farmer to farmer. But not one person was found who was without a definite opinion. These replies form a pattern into which is woven a cross section of AAA feeling in the area covered.

The majority of those interviewed were opposed to the program either in principle or in method of application. Its most outspoken critics were farmers who either were complying with it or who had complied in years past.

On the other hand, in the poor, red land country of Missouri were found friends of the AAA who declared it had saved their farms from foreclosure. This was thru government payments for soil conservation practices and tree planting, high corn loans, and payments which, theoretically, bring corn and wheat prices up to parity.

Feel Robbed of Independence.

In rich Iowa and Minnesota sections, farmers asserted the AAA is robbing them of independence without accomplishing permanent good. They said the ever normal granary plan, which provides for storage of carryover grain under government seal, has so increased the surplus that it will keep prices depressed. This is corn on which federal loans have been made to the farmers.

Everywhere in the central west was heard the complaint that the AAA is unfair, favoring the south by permitting it to raise corn and hogs without restriction. This is in competition with the corn belt, whose farmers must limit themselves to rigid allotments of wheat and corn, if they are to expect payments and loans.

The south's prompt answer to this, in the words of Fred W. Lucas, president of the Memphis, Tenn., cotton exchange was: "Certainly the south is being helped more. But that's because it has suffered more. We have suffered for years. The Yankees and their Smoot-Hawley tariff nearly ruined us."

Experiment on Idle Lands.

After explaining that the south's acreage that is idle, due to AAA restrictions on cotton, is being used for corn and hog programs, cattle raising, dairying, and even experiments in wheat, W. H. Jasspon, president of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, said:

"I foresee the time, within a few years, if we continue our present program, when Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin congressmen will be knocking on the doors of our congressmen to beg for mercy. There is no sectional prejudice intended, but we must and shall preserve our cotton economy."

In the central west, many of the severest AAA critics, who declared it must be displaced because it is unfair and impractical, said they believe there should be a federal farm program of some kind. Agriculture still needs help, they asserted.

Heavy Cost Opposed.

The cost of AAA—500 millions annually, which comes from the United States treasury—is one of the chief points of opposition in this section. The total cost thru last Feb. 29 was $3,986,147,949.23.

Of those who assail the program, yet comply with it, and accept government checks, virtually all made the following explanation:

"There is an even greater debt building up. It will have to be paid some day, by us or our descendants."

Former United States Senator L. J. Dickinson of Iowa commented on this view at Des Moines, Ia.

"That feeling is widespread," he said. "The farmer is the most debt conscious man in America. He knows there must be an accounting. He knows he can't get something for nothing."

James R. Howard, wealthy Marshall county, Iowa, farmer, who was the first national president of the American Farm Bureau federation, also confirmed this feeling among farmers.

6-4-40

[Does the AAA employ doubtful or unsound methods in fixing acreage allotments? Are its methods fair to the farmer? These questions will be discussed in tomorrow's article.]

FARMERS CHAFE UNDER AAA CROP QUOTA METHODS

Daily Tribune 8-5-40

Chicago, Ill.

Acreage Fixing System Is Called Unfair.

[Following is the second article in a series by a Tribune reporter who traveled thru seven farm states and parts of the south to gauge accomplishments of the Agricultural Adjustment administration. Today's article discusses AAA methods in fixing acreage allotments.]

BY CHARLES LEAVELLE.

In April, Farmer John Doe of Iowa learns the AAA has decreed he shall grow 5.3 acres less corn this year than last. He wonders how the AAA arrived at this figure. Did it use sound methods? Were the methods fair to him?

To answer these questions it is well to begin at the top and follow the federal farm program's allotment system down thru the national, state, county, and township organizations to the individual farm.

Wallace Exercises Control.

The wheels start turning on a day late in winter in the offices of the late in winter in the offices of the AAA in Washington, D. C., Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, now Democratic nominee for Vice President, is determining the acreage allotment for the nation as a whole on the basic commodities. These include wheat, corn, tobacco, rice, and others. The cotton allotment will be in bales.

Under the Agricultural Adjustment act of 1938, soil conservation is the device by which Wallace seeks to control production. The object of production control is reduction of supply on the theory that this will force up prices artificially.

To determine the nation's corn acreage, for example, Wallace first estimates, on the basis of past years, the number of bushels the country will need in the present year. Then he fixes the number of acres he believes will be necessary to produce these bushels.

How He Fixes Quotas.

The secretary does this by figuring the average yield for the last 10 years in the commercial corn belt, roughly the central west. He "adjusts" this for abnormal weather and yield trends in those years. Next, he estimates the coming yield in the unrestricted corn area, chiefly the south.

These two then are readjusted until their total is equal to the "reserve supply level." This figure is reached by adding 10 per cent to a normal year's domestic consumption nad exports. The secretary also has the power to determine what constitutes a normal year.

When the national quotas have been established they are parceled out to the states on the basis of the states' last crop performance. State committees, composed of five men, including a chairman, go into action. They parcel the acreage out to the counties.

A Little Guesswork.

The county's allotment is based upon the acreage it has seeded in a given commodity in the previous 10 years. This can't be known exactly. It must be averaged and guessed at. This figure is adjusted for yield trend and weather. The result is balanced against the amount of soil depleting and soil building crops alloted the county out of its total tillable acreage—the quota being based upon its crop history and soil types.

It is then the county committee's turn to act, but first it would be well to know something about it and its subdivisions. The building of this structure starts in the townships. The farmers in each of these meet and elect a committee of three. One of the three is sent to a convention which elects a county committee of three.

These men are the AAA's executives. The township committeemen are its field workers. They judge the individual farms for a share of the county allotment.

The tillable acreage, type of soil, topography, and crop rotation practices are considered. The first is simply that part of the farm available to crops. And there is little chance of going wrong on types of soil, since these are shown plainly on colored maps prepared by experts of the state university farm extension service.

But from there on, many farmers think, there is cause for complaint. Topography, which has a bearing on the amount of cash crops a farmer is allowed to grow, means the shape or slope of the land. Fields are classified as level, undulating, rolling, hilly, or steep. The steeper the field, the lower is its rating.

Township committeemen walk onto farms not with scientifically corrected slope finders, but with gadgets. The gadget is a board upon which has been sketched a segment of a circle containing 120 degrees. There is space for two "sighting pins" and a third pin, from which a weight—usually a polket knife—is hung by a string as a plumb.

The operator stands at one end of the field and sights across the pins "at something he THINKS is the height of his eyes," tilting the board, if necessary, to draw a bead. Then he reads the degree of slope where the string crosses the curve.

How the Gadget Performs.

If the object chosen for sighting is higher or lower than the operator's eyes, the gadget will indicate slope where there is none. A Tribune reporter, whose eyes are six feet from the ground, stood on a level highway and sighted at an object four feet high. He got a reading of "rolling." The township committeeman also judges fields for erosion and, since he is a farmer and is supposed to know, his judgment generally is accepted. Sometimes the farm operator appeals, but the records show that usually he doesn't. [More about this will be told in a later article.]

A farm's average yield of the last ten years is taken into consideration. Farmers who had been rotating their crops for years before the AAA came say this works an injustice upon them. For example, the history of such a farmer's land will show a comparatively small acreage in soil depleting crops.

Share in Quota Is Cut.

And the township committeeman, alloting acreage on the basis of past performance, will give such a farmer a correspondingly small share in the county's quota.

After collecting their data the township field workers gather in the local AAA office and parcel out the acreage. The farmers are represented, in theory, by the men who are deciding what they shall have and what they shall not have. There are no hearings.

County committees seldom appeal the allotments handed them by the state. State committees seldom appeal those handed down by Secretary Wallace. It is in the final division, among the individual farmers, that the rub generally comes.

[The AAA is administered in the counties by farmers elected by farmers. What type of farmer is elected? What type of farmer votes? How large is the average county's administrative staff? Tomorrow's article will deal with these questions.]

8-5-40

AGRICULTURE - 1940
CONDITION OF

ALABAMA

TUSKEGEE HEAD ASKS AID FOR POOR FARMERS

Destitute Share-Croppers To Benefit By Public Fund Subscription

NOV 9 1940

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — In a plea for impoverished farm tenants and share-croppers in the southeastern states, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute this week addressed a message to citizens of the nation calling upon them for donations.

In a letter to the Chicago Defender, President Patterson said:

"Many sections of the southeastern states which depend almost entirely upon cotton, have this year experienced the worst failure of their cash crop in more than a decade. This was due to an unusually late spring which in some instances required a second planting, a long rainy spell in June and then a drought which literally "parched up" the crop before it matured.

"In many instances, there has been no 'settling up' with tenants and sharecroppers because many land owners themselves have felt the disastrous effect of the short crop and are unable even to 'settle up' with their bankers.

"Already the victims of low and uncertain income due to the many hazards of farming, these tenants and sharecroppers face their hardest struggle for existence this fall and winter. In the midst of privations and actual suffering, the Christmas season approaches and the children of these homes, in addition to being denied ordinary physical comforts, will have nothing to remind them of this holiday season Such disappointments which are beyond these children's understanding intensify the unhappy plight of the parents.

"We recognize the fact that this is a most critical time the world over and that many demands are being made for the suffering children of Europe. We hope that this request will in no way detract from what may be sent to these young people. At the same time we bring to your attention this great need which exists on our own door step.

"For many years, devoted friends in all parts of the country have used this institution as a medium through which they send gifts to brighten such homes. Distribution is made by experienced members of our staff whose regular activities take them into remote rural areas.

"We therefore renew our appeal for donations of clothing, books toys, candy, pictures, etc. Some friends prefer to send money with which to purchase gifts and in such instances the donation is spent as directed.

"Packages and letters may be addressed to: F. D. Patterson, president, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama."

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

ALABAMA

Once Hated Alabama Cotton Now In Demand

'AN OUTSTANDING piece of work done by Alabama's farmers within recent years is the remarkable improvement made in the quality of the State's cotton crop.

A few years ago Alabama's cotton crop was held up by the world with scorn, because of the high per cent of short cotton. Domestic mills did not want it; foreign mills shunned it; all penalized it to the tune of $5,000,000 to $10,000,000 annually from 1929 through 1935 or 1936. Yes, dollars that Alabama farmers needed for their labor and money which they were denied because most everyone grew the popular short cottons.

Realizing this serious situation, the Extension Service, agricultural teachers, farmers, experiment station, the Bureau of Plant Industry, mills, bankers, buyers, ginners, business men in general united in seeking a remedy. They wanted to see Alabama's cotton crop pointed to as of the best quality; they wanted this heavy drain of cash in the way of penalties stopped.

The program was based largely on what is known as the one-variety plan of production—a plan used with signal success in California, and other Western states. Season after season the doctrine of better varieties and fewer varieties was preached from one end of the State to the other. Communities took the findings of the experiment station and adopted the variety found to be best for their area. Genuine breeder seed were obtained—usually for planting seed patches for seed production. Gin days were held to save pure seed for the following year and to prevent mixing of the good cotton with inferior varieties. Ginners, mills, bankers, merchants, 4-H clubs, FFA members supported the movement almost without exception. Trips were made to cotton mills; ginner conferences held; farmers and the textile industry in many localities met and talked over their mutual problems. Nearly 200 communities are now doing cotton improvement on community basis.

All Time Record

Results were that less than two per cent of the crop in 1939 was shorter than 7-8—an all time record for Alabama. It is estimated that more than 75 per cent of all cotton grown in the State is of five or six varieties. The number of different varieties is the smallest in 50 years; it is believed by many that Alabama is likely growing fewer different varieties than any other major cotton producting state.

Kind words are heard from the mills about Alabama cotton. Mills which formerly took only a small amount of Alabama cotton are using all Alabama cotton except small lots of special staple which cannot be grown profitably in Alabama.

Alabama is now becoming one of the outstanding states of the entire South as to quality of cotton, particularly in staple length. Continuation of the present program and improving it to meet new conditions will place Alabama high in the ranks of cotton producing states where she rightfully belongs—and will insure farmers against the heavy penalties experienced in 1929, 1930 and 1935 and save to cotton mills and other business people endless worry and losses.

Let the slogan be "Onward with cotton improvement in Alabama until the State produces the best."

TOWARD MORE DIVERSIFIED FARMING

The establishment of a cream station here, scheduled to operate for the first time Saturday, is a big forward step toward a more diversified farming program in this section.

It has been estimated that a farmer should sell from $1.25 to $2 worth of cream per week per cow. While this may seem like mere "chicken feed" to a lot of folks, it's nevertheless a whale of a lot of money on most farms.

This section needs to get away from depending on cotton alone. The entire South, for that matter, needs to get away from the one-crop system. Around here, however, we can get away from cotton and cotton alone faster and easier than most other sections because most of our people are white, and because we do not operate on the plantation-Negro system.—Haleyville Advertiser-Journal.

Negroes Inspect Farms

ATHENS, Ala.—More than 100 Negro farmers from Madison and Jackson Counties made an inspection tour of the state experimental farm near Belle Mina in this county Friday, accompanied by W. T. Gravitt, Negro farm agent of the two counties. The tour lasted all day, and a barbecue dinner was served to the visitors at noon.

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald
June 14, 1940

FARM DISCUSSION GIVEN BY RYDING

A discussion on scientific farming and conservation, and methods of teaching these subjects was given yesterday by Herbert C. Ryding, former president of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company, at a meeting of the Birmingham Real Estate Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryding have been living on a farm in Barbour County, and in cooperation with the National Youth Administration; Work Projects Administration, Tuskegee Institute and Alabama Polytechnic Institute, have opened a school near their place where scientific methods of farming are taught.

He said students are given instruction in soils, when and what to plant, preparation of ground, cultivation of the crop, repairing of farm machinery, blacksmithing, in addition to instructions as to the upkeep of cattle, poultry and swine.

At the last term, he said, 200 students were enrolled, and many more would have attended had there been enough room.

Ryding said the school building was built by the students, thereby giving them a knowledge of bricklaying. The girls and women are taught how to prepare and cook foods, serve meals and do other housework, he said.

He asserted that scientific agriculture eventually will supplant the tenant and share-cropper system that has prevailed in this section.

New Mattress Program For Alabama Set

SEP 22 1940

200,000 Mattresses Will Be Made From Surplus Cotton

AUBURN, ALA., Sept. 21.—A new cotton mattress making program for 1940-41 was announced today by P. O. Davis, director, Alabama Extension Service, and A. W. Jones, Alabama AAA administrative officer.

The new program will be under extension service direction with Miss Etna McGaugh, State home demonstration agent, coordinating it.

It will be similar to the 1939-40 program under which each farm family with less than $400 income was given 50 pounds of cotton and 10 yards of ticking for use in making the cotton mattress. Salient features of the new program are:

1. The income level is raised from $400 to $500, plus an additional $50 for each member of the family in excess of four persons.

2. Each family may receive one mattress for every two persons in the family but not to exceed three mattresses for the entire family. If the family has already received a mattress under the cotton mattress project or from the Farm Security Administration or Works Progress Administration this is included in determining the number which it may receive.

3. Money paid as cash rent or commodities paid as standing or fixed rent may be deducted in determining the amount of cash income.

4. The amount of cash income means the family's income for the latest preceding calendar year. In other words, until Jan. 1, 1941, the 1939 income figure will be used and thereafter the 1940 income figure will be applicable.

"This is another opportunity to serve farm people in Alabama and also to make a large contribution to the national defense program," says Etna McGaugh, State home demonstration agent, in a letter to all county farm and home agents relative to the new mattress program.

"This phase of the cotton utilization program is the one single item that utilizes the largest amount of cotton," she says. "For that reason it is doubly important that we continue the fine organization and leadership we have had this year."

Estimates are that Alabama farm families will make over 200,000 mattresses under the new program. They received cotton and ticking for making 210,242 mattresses under the 1939-40 program and are expected to apply for fully that many mattresses under the new program.

County farm and home agents, together with AAA county officials, will cooperate with the farm families in preparing applications and making mattresses under the new program; however, it will be several days before county offices will start taking applications under the 1940-41 program.

Birmingham, Ala. News
November 4, 1940

State Sharecroppers Facing Hard Winter; Patterson Asks Help

Alabama sharecroppers are facing a hard Winter and a yuletide with little prospect of anything to remind them of this eventful season, writes Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to The Birmingham News-Age-Herald. He couples his recital of dire conditions with a plea for contributions that will bring happiness to the children of the unfortunate sharecroppers and much needed supplies of food and clothing to their elders.

Poor crops, low prices of farm products and other economic conditions have made the struggle of these people for existence doubly hard, the Tuskegee president writes, and "in the midst of the privations and actual suffering the Christmas season approaches and the children of these homes, in addition to being denied ordinary physical comforts, will have nothing to remind them of the holiday season. Such disappointments, which are beyond children's understanding, intensify the unhappy plight of the parents."

Dr. Patterson says for many years friends of the institution throughout the country have used it as a medium through which to send gifts to brighten homes, and he asks that it be repeated this season.

Members of the Tuskegee Institute staff, familiar with conditions in that section and knowing the people, will make the distribution, Dr. Patterson says.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
November 27, 1940

What Negro Farmers Are Doing

The negro women of ten community clubs took advantage of the Thanksgiving season to learn more about preparing balanced meals from home-grown products. On the regular meeting days various members brought unprepared food they had promised, along with neatly made cooking aprons to work in.

Mobelia E. Johnson, negro home agent, assisted the different clubs in planning dinner and dividing the women into groups such as cooks, waitresses, etc.

All foods served were products of Chambers County farms. The meats consisted of small game, pork or fowl; the vegetables were fresh or home canned; the pickles and relishes came from pantry shelves; and the desserts ranged from potato and pumpkin pies to home-made ice cream.

Farm men in the various communities took an active part in the "Thanksgiving dinners" by providing sufficient table space and seats for all club members and friends present.

Missouri Schoolboy, 15, Wins Cotton Picking Championship; Bags 129 Pounds In Two Hours

Commercial Appeal Memphis Tenn

OCT 16 1940

By BRUCE TUCKER
Staff Correspondent

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Oct. 15.—Harold Mason, 15-year-old Senath, Mo., schoolboy with more of a yen for athletics than farm work, won the National Cotton Picking Championship here Tuesday and pocketed the $1000 cash prize which went with the award.

Harold, who has no particular "system," sacked 129 net pounds of cotton in the two hours' picking. He was not penalized either for leaving his rows in bad condition or having an unusual amount of trash in the cotton.

Arkansan Second

Pushing the young winner was James Bradshaw, 27-year-old Reyno, Ark., tenant farmer, who picked 117 pounds net and won the $250 cash given for second honors. Third money of $100 went to Joe Hernandez of Luxora, Ark.

More than 12,000 persons witnessed the championship which drew 135 pickers from 11 states. The contest was held under a bright sun which broke through threatening clouds just shortly before Governor Bailey fired the starting gun at 11 o'clock. Rains which fell most of Tuesday night had little effect on the speed of the pickers.

For months, Blytheville citizens under the leadership of R. B. Crafton, originator of the idea, and Mel Brooks of the Chamber of Commerce, had planned for the event, first of its kind ever held in the Nation.

Without A Hitch

And the program went off without a hitch. The 125-acre cotton field was white with opened bolls and the rains had served to settle the dust, making the business of watching the show more pleasant.

When it was all over, none was more surprised at the winner than was Harold. He was a last-minute entry and said after he had the money that "I didn't have much confidence."

OCT 16 1940

But the folk up Senath way thought he could do it, because the City of Senath entered him late Monday, a group of business men bringing him to Blytheville and paying the $10 entrance fee. A home town delegation followed him closely all during the contest, urging him on. And more than a few of the spectators had their money on him before the weighing began.

Bradshaw's sacks were among the first weighed, Harold's among the last, but all the crowd knew before the figures were announced that the $1000 went to one or the other.

Winner Surprised

Strangely, the winner doesn't consider himself a "big" picker. An average day's gathering for him runs between 400 and 500 pounds, he said, which doesn't compare with the 1100 pounds daily which some of the entrants boast.

Harold is a sophomore in Senath High School and a softball player of note. He participated in the recent Missouri state tournament and wore a red ball cap for his picking chore Tuesday.

Commercial Appeal Memphis Tenn

The money?

"I guess I'll save it for school," he said. "I've always wanted to go to Columbia (University of Missouri) and take agriculture."

And he hadn't trained particularly for the contest because he entered almost too late. All he did, he said, was pick cotton Monday—and that was before he knew he was coming here.

OCT 16 1940

Gets Police Escort

Governor Bailey presented Harold with the prize money, all in $1 bills, and then had state police take him to a Blytheville bank to deposit it. The Governor was a bit proud of the winner even if he wasn't an Arkansan. Governor Bailey pointed out that he was reared in the same county from which young Mason hails. Earlier, in the only speech of the day, Governor Bailey had paid tribute to the originality of Blytheville citizens who had promoted the event.

Commercial Appeal Memphis Tenn

"Our publicity agencies such as the State Publicity Commission can only integrate and exploit such things as the people themselves have done," he said. "No one can lead the people any further than they want to go.

Tenn

"This event is significant of the trend to make play out of work as shown by the corn husking contests and this cotton picking competition. This competition is fine. It makes for good."

OCT 8 1940

Max B. Reid, Blytheville attorney, presided at the ceremonies at which the prizes were awarded.

Picks With Teeth

Nearly as happy as the winner was Bradshaw. Reporters and cameramen had followed him through most of the contest mostly because of the show which he is within himself. First of all, he's a row straddler. Then, he appears to pick as much with his teeth as he does with his fingers. And, as a negro spectator said, "he sho could poke that stuff in that sack." The teeth incidentally, were used to remove the cotton from bolls which were still a bit green and didn't yield the lint any too readily.

Most colorful of the field, however, was 34-year-old Henry Orlean Almond of French extraction and hailing from Rayville, La. He had a flowing black beard and topped his picking costume with a black broad brimmed hat. He picked 107 pounds net, but fell far short of the top money.

Almost by the time the event was over, the contest leaders began to make plans for another competition a year from now. Mr. Crafton said they hoped to enlarge the show by adding several attractions on the side.

Winners of $50 prizes in order of their finishing were Bill Bristow of Blytheville, Wesley Buck of Rives, Mo., Theddis Thomas of Dell, Ark., Johnny Stovall of San Angelo, Texas, and Sam Simmons of Blytheville. Thomas and Simmons were the only negroes in the top brackets.

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Winners of $25 prizes in order of finishing were Cecil Vance of Bragg City, Mo., Walter Vasser of Steele, Mo., Bill Dickson of Blytheville, Odell Collins of Lancaster, Texas, H. C. Harris of Brookhaven, Miss., Homer Tate of Burdett, Texas, J. W. Cooley of McCrory, Ark., H. O. Almond, Willie Easter of Memphis, Robert Finley of Blytheville, L. D. Herrel of Livingston, Mo., Newell Campbell of Blytheville, Aleita Mescar of Tunica, Miss., and [illegible] Harris of Roseland, Ark. Judges were Charles Rose, Roseland planter; E. A. Stacey, Dell ginner, and B. G. West, Blytheville cotton buyer.

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AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

ARKANSAS

Tenant Union Can't Have Voice In Running Dyess, FSA Decides

From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, March 6.—The Southern Tenant Farmers Union has not been recognized as a bargaining agency for residents of the Farm Security Administration's resettlement projects, T. Roy Reid, regional FSA director, said today.

Mr. Reid pointed out that newspaper reports recently have quoted S. T. F. U. officials as saying the union would be given a voice in managing the Dyess rehabilitation project in Mississippi County recently taken over by the FSA.

Report Made Public

Mr. Reid made public the following report received from Dr. W. W. Alexander, FSA administrator:

"Saturday a delegation from the Southern Tenant Farmers Union called at my office. Among the group was Floyd Slayton, a resident of Dyess Colony.

"The delegation informed me that a number of the members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union Local No. 29, which I understand consists largely of residents of the Dyess project, had been elected to the Farm Security Administration Advisory Committee for the project; and they requested that this committee be recognized as a 'Bargaining Committee' for the project.

"I explained that the Dyess project had been transferred to the Farm Security Administration only a few weeks ago; and that it is our policy in the operation of all projects under FSA supervision to invite the project residents to elect an Advisory Committee to consult with the project management on matters of mutual concern. I believe I made it perfectly plain that such committees are purely advisory and the responsibility for the management and operations of the project must rest with FSA officials.

Will Represent Residents

"I agreed, of course, that the Advisory Committee recently elected at Dyess Colony should be recognized as representing the project residents, just as we recognize similar committees elected at the request of the FSA at all other projects under our supervision. It was well understood by everyone in the meeting that the committee could be recognized as representing project residents and not the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Moreover, I pointed out that the committee should conduct its negotiations directly with the project manager, and if necessary with the regional office, rather than with Washington officials of the FSA."

Great Increase In Acreage, Quality Of Cotton Reported In One-Variety Communities

When Program Was Inaugurated In 1931, 394,000 Acres Were Held By Co-operators; Now Its Adherents Till 3,000,000

Special to The Commercial Appeal

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., May 5.—Cotton acreage in one-variety communities has increased from 394,000 to nearly 3,000,000 acres during the past decade as producers, co-operating with state colleges of agriculture, have sought to improve the quality of American cotton, H. E. Thompson, assistant state extension director, said today.

In 1931, when the present one-variety program began in the South under the direction of C. B. Doyle of the Federal Bureau of Plant ndustry, about 90 per cent of the cotton planted in one-variety com- unities was located in the irri- 3,000,000 acres planted in these ated valleys of California, Arizona communities do not include many nd New Mexico. one-variety communities which do not report directly to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Since then, however, most of the nore than sevenfold increase in creage planted on the one standrd variety plan has been in the Cotton Belt States. These communities, Mr. Thompson said, are hoosing their one variety carefully, with a steady trend toward emhasis on character and quality of taple as well as on early maturity, which was the principal purpose after the first bad boll weevil ears.

Arkansas Progress

The increased number of one-variety communities organized in Arkansas with the assistance of county extension agents of the College of Agriculture reflects the growing appreciation of producers for quality. In 1938 there were 91 one-variety communities organized in 27 counties; in 1939 they increased to 138, located in 43 counties, with a membership of 6862 farmers who grew 126,476 acres of improved cotton.

In a report as of March 11, 1940, Mr. Doyle told Mr. Thompson there were 1486 one-variety communities in the South in 1939. The nearly

Regional Tests

Regional variety tests conducted recently by the bureau in co-operation with 10 cotton states emphasize the importance of the one-variety program. Sixteen cotton varieties selected from different portions of the Cotton Belt were planted for a three-year period at 14 experiment stations from the same seed stock. Records were kept of the response of the varieties from the time of germination until fina spinning.

As a result of the study, the bureau reports that variety is the most important controllable factor in determining such qualities as staple length and fineness, and to a certain extent the strength of the fiber, and that one-variety communities that have chosen their variety wisely are taking the shortest way to improvement and better returns.

Improved Marketing

This improvement in production Mr. Thompson said, has accompanied improvement in marketing In one-variety communities the system of "hog-round" buying is being eliminated in favor of buying on a quality basis and paying farmers premiums for the good cotton

The increase in production in one-variety communities also has provided marketing specialists of the Marketing Agreements Division with sufficient quantities of similar grade and staple cotton to try out marketing practices designed to improve the position of American cotton in foreign markets.

Selected Cotton

In 1938 AAA marketing specialists selected 3854 bales of cotton from one-variety communities. The cotton was carefully packaged in cotton wrappings instead of the ordinary jute netting. Encouraging reports about this small lot were received from foreign manufacturers. The cotton arrived in better condition and more nearly met the grade and staple requirements than ordinary shipments.

Last year the program was continued and 12,602 bales were selected for export from five one-variety areas.

Negro Sharecropper Makes Big Success In Osceola, Ark.

SEP 14 1940

OSCEOLA, Ark., Sept. 6, 1940—Most people have to start life from "scratch" but Dooley Fair, of Osceola, Arkansas, Mississippi County, started in to become a landowner in 1929 with a total debt of $1,100 hanging over him. Today he is the owner of 100 acres of rich farm land; has built two houses on the place; his yearly AAA payments for himself and tenants amount to $1,700 annually and he doesn't owe one cent.

The amazing part of Mr. Fair's rise in life is that it came when he was past middle age; he succeeded during a period when thousands of farmers, white and black, were losing their farms, and he can neither read nor write.

Dr. J. C. Austin, pastor of the Pilgrim Baptist church, Chicago, paid a visit to the Dooley farm some months ago and heard the story he had to tell.

Dooley Fair came to the plantation of Charles T. Coleman in 1929. Mr. Coleman liked him and paid his back debts and advanced him money for his crop. Through good years and bad Mr. Fair has made some money and at the advice of Mr. Coleman, for whom he still farms, he bought a hundred-acre farm in one of the richest farming sections in the state, it is near the 10,000 acre plantation of Mr. Coleman.

With the help of W. S. Barabin, Colored County Agent, Mr. Fair has continued to produce excellent crops on his land. Cotton is his main crop, but he practices diversification. Instead of operating the annual AAA payments for participation in the conservation program amounts to $500 for tenants and $110 as the landowner's share. From land that isrented from Mr. Coleman, Mr. Fair's payments for tenants amount to $700 for his tenants and $420 for himself.

When asked why he did not move on his own property, Mr. Fair points out that he never had been given an opportunity to attend school and could not read or write. With the help of Mr. Coleman he had been able to acquire this property and to rent and sub-rent acreage on the Coleman property. This system worked perfectly for him and he intends to continue until he reached the age he wants to retire, then he will go to his farm and take life easy.

W. S. Barabin, County Agents, says that in his work with Negro farmers, Mr. Fair is the only man he has met who has such an arrangement. The fact that a man can accomplish what Mr. Fair has accomplished even though handicapped by lack of education, holds some hope for those who work hard grow their own food and feed crops, and cooperate with the government in the farm program.

INDUSTRY RESTRICTS FARMER, O'NEAL SAYS

OCT 11 1940

Farm Bureau Head Speaks To East Arkansas Leaders At Forrest City

Pictures on Page 17

By WALTER DURHAM
Staff Correspondent

FORREST CITY, Ark., Oct. 10.—"The fight of farmers to restore agriculture to its rightful place in the national economy is more than 20 years old, but the goal of parity has not yet been reached because the restrictions and disabilities imposed on agriculture by the industrial development of the Nation are too deep rooted to be overcome in a few years," Edward A. O'Neal of Chicago, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, told 1500 bureau members of 22 Eastern Arkansas counties here Thursday afternoon.

Mr. O'Neal, husky militant leader of 3,000,000 American farmers, said patent rights, monopoly privileges, wage and hour legislation, fixed transportation rates and other legislation of this nature has led to rigidites in the price and wage structure, causing farm economy to be thrown out of balance. His address was broadcast by WMC, The Commercial Appeal station.

Still Out of Balance

"In recent years the Federal Government has given farmers certain devices designed to enable us to recover our economic balance, or parity," he explained. "These devices have worked, but as farm prices rose, industry's prices and labor's wages were raised too, and the result is that we are still out of balance."

Preceding Mr. O'Neal's address at the High School stadium, the St. Francis County Farm Bureau was host at a luncheon for bureau members from the Eastern Arkansas district. W. T. Jones of Madison, president of the St. Francis County unit, was toastmaster. Luncheon speakers included Mr. O'Neal, County Agent J. M. Thomason of St. Francis County; R. E. Short, president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, and Thomas F. Dodson, state director of organization.

Governor-Elect Speaks

J. H. Snapp of Fitzhugh, state bureau director, presided at the afternoon session and presented Gov.-Elect Homer M. Adkins, Mr. O'Neal and other visiting agricultural leaders. Music was provided by the Forrest City High School Band.

Describing himself as a bureau member who believes in organization, Mr. Adkins said, "I want you to know of my intenese interest in wanting to see the farmers in Arkansas organized. When I assume office I shall say to the various department heads, especially the State Extension Service, that I would like for them to lend their assistaance to this end.

"I thoroughly believe in organization—that is the way for us to get results. Every farmer should be a member of some farm organization," he declared.

The Governor-elect said he was "vitally interested in Arkansas developing a good livestock program," and said he would ask the Legislature to make a "liberal appropriation to the Arkansas Livestock Show, and will encourage men and women, boys and girls, to continue their interest in the livestock industry."

Predicting that American agriculture would be called upon to make difficult adjustments at the end of the European War, Mr. O'Neal said world-shaking events abroad are now having their repercussions in the grassroots of our own country.

"With the entire world facing war or the threat of war, the South, because it lives under a cotton economy, is particularly vulnerable," he insisted. "Half of our cotton has depended upon foreign markets. The war has restricted these outlets and the restriction may prove permanent. After the first World War we enjoyed a big export demand, but the world no longer depends so heavily on American cotton, and furthermore, the present war will leave the nations so impoverished that commerce will be severely limited except on a barter basis.

Loan Level Too Low

"Faced with the immediate piling up of surpluses of cotton, wheat and tobacco in this country, agriculture would be in a very bad way without a national farm program, including commodity loans which have protected the prices of basic crops from disastrous drops," he continued. "However, the loan level is not high enough to give farmers parity or anything approaching parity, and therefore the principal job ahead of us is the strengthening of the loan program."

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Mr. O'Neal paid high tribute to the National Cotton Council for its work in finding new uses and markets for cotton, and asserted that "We must use every weapon available to fight for holding our fair share of whatever foreign markets are left after the war is over."

South Has Biggest Stake

Explaining that the farm problem is a national problem that can be solved only by national approach, Mr. O'Neal said:

"As a region the South never got anywhere until we joined forces with farmers of other sections to fight the battle in a national way. The South has far more to lose than any other region because of the peculiar conditions that prevail here. Even in the so-called prosperous years, farm income in the South was tragically low."

The hope of American agriculture, Mr. O'Neal said, lies in a nine-point national program, which he listed as follows:

1. Maintenance and strengthening of the national farm program to insure parity for agriculture.
2. Continuance of the soil conservation program.
3. A program to make Southern farms self-sufficient as to food.
4. Development of our timberlands.
5. More attention to pastures and production of feeder cattle.
6. Continuance of the surplus commodities disposal program.
7. Adjustment of freight rates.
8. Decentralization of industry.
9. Co-ordination of all agricultural agencies.

Jacksonville Fla Times-Union
March 16, 1940

Farmers Talk Over Potato, Cane Planting

Special to Times-Union.

LAKE CITY, March 15.—The commercial production of sweet potatoes and sugar cane was discussed in a meeting in the courthouse here yesterday by a group of white and negro farmers.

The meeting was sponsored by Roe Markham, business man and farmer, and Wayne Miller, secretary of the Lake City Chamber of Commerce. Guy Cox, Columbia County agricultural agent, McKinley Jeffers, and N. H. Bennett, local farm agents for Columbia and Hamilton Counties, respectively, participated.

A. A. Turner, district agent from Florida A. & M. College, Tallahassee, represented the Negro Extension Service, while D. W. Perkins of Jacksonville, represented the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association. As the result of this meeting, definite plans will be carried out to increase the income of small farmers in Columbia and adjoining counties this year and in the future through the commercial production of sweet potatoes and sugar cane crops, products of which are being imported into Florida from neighbor States because of an inadequate seed supply.

Lake City has many advantages to offer in the promotion of this enterprise, said the Chamber of Commerce secretary, and will cooperate in whatever may be necessary to secure the improved seed supply.

The speakers referred frequently to the car lot shipments of chewing sugar cane to Detroit in 1938 and 1939 by John Mizel of Jasper, which netted approximately $400 per acre. Mizel's sugar cane crop of four acres netted him $1,400 in 1939. The cane was sold mostly for seed and chewing purposes, seven varieties being grown on Mizel's farm.

Negro, White Farmers Meet In Florida To Discuss Their Crops

Black

LAKE CITY, Fla. (ANP)—The commercial production of sweet potatoes and sugarcane was discussed in a meeting at the court house here last week, of white and Negro farmers sponsored by Roe Markham, business man and farmer, and Wayne Miller, secretary of Lake City Chamber of Commerce; Guy Cox, Columbia County Agricultural agent; McKinley Jeffers, and N .H. Bennett, local farm agents for Columbia and Hamilton counties.

A. A. Turner, district agent from Florida A. and M. college, Tallahassee, represented the Negro Division Extension service, while Atty. D. W. Perkins, of Jacksonville, represented the Florida Farmers' Cooperative association. As the result of this meeting definite plans will be carried out to increase the income of small farmers in Columbia and adjoining counties this year ,and in the future through the commercial production of sweet potatoes and sugarcane crops, the products of which are being imported into Florida by neighbor states on account of the inadequate seed supply.

Lake City has many advantages to offer in the promotion of this enterprise, said the chamber of cemmerce secretary, and will cooperate in whatever may be necessary to secure the improved seed supply being undertaken.

Dunnellon, Fla., Sun
May 10, 1940

TRIPLE-A 1940 PROGRAM EXPLAINED TO NEGROES

WHITE SPRINGS. — Negro farmers of Hamilton and northern Suwanee counties have had the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program for 1940 explained to them in a series of 11 recent meetings conducted by N. H. Bennett, negro farm agent with the Agricultural Extension Service.

The 440 farmers attending were urged to adopt and follow a good substantial live-at-home program through which they will produce foods and feeds needed on their own farms.

Bennett was assisted by County Agent J. J. Sachrest of Hamilton and S. C. Kiser of Suwannee and others.

Absentee-Landlordism Evils

No single group is to blame, but the state of Georgia is burdened with too much absentee landlordism. The state department has said no exact figures are available, but the supposition is that more than fifty per cent of the property is owned outside of the state; and probably thirty per cent of the remainder is owned by people living in Georgia towns.

The urge to sell these holdings and get rid of the property kills interest in the land. The owner doesn't want to put any more money into it, and the renter or tenant is expecting to be ousted at the end of any season, so nobody is in position to build up the productivity and the livableness of the farms.

On the owner-occupied farms a far different picture is presented. Cover crops are being plowed in, and terraces are holding the soil; fertilization is being applied; and while marketing conditions are not yet ideal, they are vastly improved and offer hope.

One or more of the government rehabilitation agents have said the cropper or tenant seems to feel he's up against a dead wall, because he can't figure out a long-time program; and therefore does not know how to plan.

Few leases are ever granted, even if they should be sought. Contracts to buy are more often made, and these are more desirable where the terms are suitable and possible of fulfillment.

The agitation over the farming situation has impressed many that some lands are too depleted to be tilled successfully; and about the only sensible use for such is to give them a chance to grow timber. But a mortgage holder who has taken over the property because of default in debt payment, is not interested in spending any more; what he wants is to get back the forty or fifty per cent valuation he put into it in the beginning. Somebody else will have to plant the pine trees if they are planted.

The serious mistake has been made of fencing the worst abused and worst worn lands for pasturage; and this has brought disappointment. It is gradually being learned that good lands are needed for pasturage. Poor pastures produce poor animals, and that's a sure route to poverty.

Since the South is again being looked upon as having rights in the union, and industry is turning in this direction, it is as sure as day follows the night, values are coming back to the Georgia lands. They can be bought now for less than half normal, reasonable prices; and some people are investing in them to improve and develop them.

The movement in that direction is slow, but it is easily seen. An entirely different type of farming is being done, but it is a better type. One cash crop systems were never meant for a state with so many varieties of soil and climate.

When the lands get into the hands of people who want to improve them, the cropper and tenant problems will solve themselves, because the tenants and croppers will be able to build themselves up to a higher status; and at last they are the people who should eventually be the owners. Any other objective moves us all in the wrong direction. Some historians say the most prosperous agricultural country is where the owner must live on his land or he must surrender it to somebody who will live on it, and his holdings are limited to a reasonable size farm.

MOVES TO EXPAND FARM-TENANT AID

House Agriculture Committee Would Include Insurance of Mortgages in Bill

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—A bill intended to increase the scope of the Jones-Bankhead Farm Tenancy Act to include insurance of mortgages by the Secretary of Agriculture was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by its Agriculture Committee today. A formal report will be filed with the House in the course of the next few days, committee officials said.

A proposal of similar intent, but slightly different in machinery, was passed by the Senate last July. The House Agriculture Committee substituted today its own project in the nature of an amendment to the Senate bill. The new proposal would continue in effect the existing farm tenancy law and add features to it.

The bill would empower the Secretary of Agriculture to insure amortized mortgages, not to run more than forty years or to bear interest at more than 3 per cent, of farm tenants, farm laborers or share-croppers wishing to acquire their own farms. The Secretary would collect the payments of principal, interest and insurance premiums from the mortgagor and pay to the mortgagee the principal and interest du him. Banks and insurance companies would invest in such mortgages.

Action After a Default

In the event of a default of more than six months' standing, the mortgagee would assign to the Secretary his interest in the farm and accept in lieu thereof debentures issued by the Secretary. After the farm had been resold, or an arrangement made, the Secretary would take up the debentures and put the matter on a financial basis again.

Mortgages not only to acquire land but to refinance existing obligations could be insured by the Secretary.

A top limit of $350,000,000 of outstanding insured mortgages at any one time would be placed over the transaction in a manner so that not more than $50,000,000 could be outstanding before July 1, 1941, $150,000,000 before July 1, 1942, and $200,000,000 before July 1, 1943.

Representative Jones of Texas, chairman of the Agriculture Committee and co-sponsor of the original farm-tenancy legislation, explained to the committee that his idea is to proceed relatively slowly until a revolving fund of $1,000,000,000 has been built up by annual appropriations to be used in farm-tenancy operations.

To Get the Fund Started

To get the proposed insurance fund started, toward which mortgagors would pay one-fourth of 1 per cent of their outstanding indebtedness as annual premiums, the bill would authorize the allocation of 5 per cent of whatever appropriation for farm tenancy Congress might make for the coming fiscal year. The insurance reserves would be invested in obligations of the Federal Government.

County committees would appraise the value of the land and improvements in all proposed transactions under the proposed law and mortgages could be made for that full value. No down payment would be required.

Preference would be given to married persons with dependents, persons able to make a down payment, and owners of livestock and implements. No person not a citizen of the United States would be eligible, and farms would be required to be of sufficient size to be operated efficiently by a diligent farming family engaging in the type of agriculture approved for the region by the Secretary.

Farm Tenant Problem

It would appear, from some actions of the economy bloc in congress, that the popular demand for reduction of federal expenditure is as have so many other fundamentally commendable movements, being used by some political factions to serve selfish purposes.

In the sweeping effort for reduced appropriations there have been some programs threatened which, by every measure of public service, should be retained. There is little use in budget reduction unless discretion and wise discrimination direct the cuts.

Elimination of funds for continuance of the farm-tenant purchase plan is a startling case in point. Of all the developments in the national agricultural program there is none more soundly based or holding forth greater promise of ultimate benefit to the nation and its people than this.

Under the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act, the government makes a limited number of loans to worthy farm tenants by which they can purchase their own farms and make such improvements as are needed to give reasonable opportunity for successful farm operation and ultimate independence.

Under this act the number and amount of these loans is strictly limited. The appropriation for the fiscal year which ends on June 30 was $40,000,000, making possible a total of 6,971 loans. The loans are confined to counties where the tenancy problem is most acute, and are allocated to states on basis of farm population and prevalence of tenancy.

Under this plan, 1,644 loans were available this year for tenants, share-croppers and farm laborers of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. For these, there were 83,685 applications.

It must be remembered that outlay under this act is not of the outright gift variety. The money is advanced on terms permitting repayment, at 3 per cent interest, over a period of 40 years. It is, in fact, similar in its workings to the successful HOLC and FHA programs for urban home-owners.

Under the system of apportionment the south has received ag reater proportion of these loans than many other sections of the country.

This is due to the high ratio of farm population and the prevalence of share-cropping, or farm tenancy, in the southern states.

It has been charged that the elimination of this program from the agricultural appropriations for the coming year is attributable, in part, to the ancient prejudice against the south in some other parts of the country. Whether or not this charge is true, the basic economic folly of halting this program remains unchanged.

The farm tenant problem, the plight of the share-croppers not only of the south, but of the midwest, is one of the most fundamental evils now facing the nation. Contented farm ownership is the bedrock of national solidarity. A nation of tenants is a nation of unrest, susceptible to every wind of radicalism, ripe for the effort of the un-American preachers of subversive isms.

There is more wisdom in a program which seeks to re-establish the landless upon their own home farms than in all the plans for subsidies, for equalization and for crop bounties combined.

Of all the efforts of the federal administration to improve the economic lot of the rural population of the country, there is none which can be of greater value than this program to make farm owners, once again, out of worthy but landless, farm workers.

WALLACE URGES TENANT PROGRAM TO HELP NATION

(The Associated Press)

Washington, March 3.—Secretary Wallace declared Saturday that no foreign dictatorship has raised a higher barrier against American goods than "we have built ourselves" around low-income groups in this country, particularly Southern tenant farmers.

"The unfilled needs of our own citizens," he said, "constitute the biggest potential market for American industry."

In an address prepared for a lenge our democracy," he said.

As a result, he said, "much of the South is close to starvation" and "is closed to American products for which we are trying to find markets."

The secretary said the answer to the problem in the South may be "a program of subsistence farming, accompanied by a supplemental rural works program, so planned that it would not interfere with their subsistence farming, but would be of great benefit to the areas where the work is performed.

"Aside from the needs of these families, there is a vast field in the South for useful activity. Here is a place where idle men and idle money could be put to work with profit to all. Thousands of men could be kept busy for years to the nation's advantage, rebuilding the South's forests, preserving and restoring the South's land, controlling floods and housing the South's rural population."

Wallace suggested that a vast home construction program in the South would do much to cure that region's troubles. He estimated that Southern farmers needed a million new homes. Construction of such homes under a governmental loan program, he said, would provide employment for thousands of men.

banquet on the 73rd anniversary of the founding of Howard university, a Negro school, Wallace said that New Deal farm programs had opened "a path in the wilderness" that may lead to improved economic and social conditions for underprivileged members of both the white and Negro races.

"The dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer is of paramount importance to the Negro race, because half the American Negroes are Southern farmers and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group."

One-crop farming, a "short-sighted" tenure system, lack of adequate credit, soil depletion and mechanization have created in the South "widespread poverty, hopelessness and unrest which chal-

Senate Hears Of Barriers

Negro Farmers Not Allowed To Query

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Many Negro farmers find it almost impossible to get information from county AAA committeemen in the South and are victims of rank discrimination, a senate agriculture subcommittee heard Friday from spokesmen from the Southern Tenant Farmers union.

Atlanta, Ga.

F. A. Betton, of Cotton Plant Ark., union vice-president, gave most of the testimony on discrimination. J. R. Buter, white, Memphis, union president, also spoke of the plight of the Negro farmer in detailing conditions among tenant farmers in general.

Daily World

"It's an insult for the people of my race to ask any questions," Betton said. "The Negro is very much discriminated against, and in some places he can't even ask his landlord about the AAA law. The landlord says, 'Bill, you go back to the field and get to work,' and off he goes."

3-5-40

When Sen. Wiley of Wisconsin asked if the Negroes could read, Betton replied, 'A great many of them can, but they can't understand why they read and sign things without knowing what it's all about."

Butler said there was some discrimination against white tenants but it was more acute where Negroes were concerned. One, George Marberry of near Macon, Miss., was mobbed because he questioned a county committeeman about the farm law.

The union went on record as demanding that the federal farm program be revised so as to return thousands of migrant farm laborers to the land. It also proposed restriction of farm benefit payments to any one landowner to $5,000 and requirement that employers of farm labor pay a minimum of 25 cents an hour in order to qualify for the federal subsidies.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
March 6, 1940

The Negro, Two Pictures

IN an address at Howard University, the negro school in Washington, Secretary Wallace had several striking remarks to make about the negro, especially the Southern negro.

"The dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer," said Secretary Wallace, "is of paramount importance to the negro race, because half of the American negroes are Southern farmers, and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group." And this is true. The secretary goes too far, however, when he says that "much of the South is close to starvation." Much of the South is not close to starvation. If federal assistance were withdrawn all over the country, the South would suffer, but it would not suffer as much, for instance, as the great urban centers of the East from when comes the urge to reform us. We have known want and poverty in the South, but never in all history of this section have we known famine. We have want and poverty in the South today, but the statement that "much of the South is close to starvation" is an absurdity which no man familiar with conditions would make.

We would like for Secretary Wallace to consider the difference between the negro of the South and the negro of New York—the negro of Harlem. In the South, we have some 15,000,000 or 16,000,000 whites, and the Eastern reformers demand to know why we cannot take care of some 9,000,000 or 10,000,000 negroes. They vilify us—and yet they ignore the conditions of New York. In New York, we have a great city of some 7,000,000 people, and yet this great city is unable to care for a mere handful of 350,000 negroes. The 15,000,000 whites in the South are expected to have no difficulty in fitting 10,000,000 negroes into their economic picture, without want and poverty, and yet the 7,000,000 whites in New York, living in the richest city on the globe, have made a miserable failure of fitting 350,000 negroes into their picture! In New York, on a percentage basis, there are more negroes on relief, more negroes in outright distress, and more political and economic unrest among the negroes than in any part of the South. What do the reformers intend to do about it?

Farm Fundamentals

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has been criticized for many of his programs dealing with farm economics, but when it comes to the fundamentals of good farming none can dispute his statement that conservation of soil and forestry resources are the two most vital needs for the coming year.

Secretary Wallace has stated that changes have been made in his department's programs designed to accentuate work on these two lines, and that farmers all over the nation will be urged—and in many cases where aid is sought required—to place greater emphasis upon conservation.

The agricultural wealth of the United States, as represented in the fertility of its farm acres, is rapidly being depleted. Erosion has left great gullies in many areas while it is only necessary to witness the color of the rivers that flow into American seas, to realize how fast they are carrying the rich topsoils away.

Of special interest to the south is the announcement by the Farm Security Administration that no farm purchase or rehabilitation loans will be extended to tenants or sharecroppers without provision for crop diversification and rotation. One-crop farming will be barred from such loans.

Likewise, in order to lessen misuse of land by short-term tenants, the FSA will seek longer-term and better-written farm leases for its borrowers.

And, through the AAA crop control programs, larger subsidy checks will be forthcoming for the farmers who use desirable conservation methods in their farming, than for those who do not thus co-operate.

Much progress in educating farmers in the need of reforestation and soil conservation has been made in recent years, but there is much more yet to be done.

Only when every public agency, official and private, is united in the campaign, can there be hope that the wastage of farm fertility in this countrv will come to an end.

TUBACCO BAN MAY INJURE RACE FARMERS

By DR. M. F. SPAULDING

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Feb. 8—The British tobacco ban is destined unless some remedial steps are taken by the States concerned and the Government agencies to throw more Negro farmers on relief and starvation. There are many farms located on poor hilly and submarginal lands whose sole dependence for a living hinges on from 3 to 5 acres of tobacco. Any interference with the price will result in much suffering.

County agents, vocational teachers, school teachers, preachers and all intelligent people should keep abreast of developments so as to keep these people informed concerning the general outlook for 1940 crops.

Last fall at the beginning of hostilities, Britain withdrew her salesman from the flue cured tobacco markets, resulting in the markets being closed for a short time. In order to prevent a calamity, the Commodity Credit Corporation plugged the markets by advancing $40,000,000 to buy the English portion which is stored in American owned English warehouses. With the ban on importations the government stands to lose this. With a surplus of one billion, one hundred million pounds on hand from the 1939 crop the outlook for 1940 looks gloomy unless steps are taken to remove it. Southern congressmen are taking steps to bring to the attention of the Secretary of State, the seriousness of the situation.

Whether the ban is lifted or not all public workers should urge the importance of a sustaining agriculture. That is, farming to provide for the home market first and for the maintenance of soil fertility and the soil. Farmers taking a chance at growing tobacco or cotton to sell to buy food or feed for his table are taking a gambler's chance for 1940 at spending his time, energy and that of his farm family at work for something he may not be able to market or eat. With Great Britain fighting a starvation war with Germany purchasing from European markets, commodities that normally would go to Germany and intercepting American goods that might find a way there eventually, the American farmer stands to be the loser.

The only sane safe route to pursue is to at least grow food and feed for home markets, reduce fertilizer outlay unless it can be purchased for cash without mortgaging the crop; increase livestock production to balance food available; make contracts for expenditures cautiously; provide for making fertilizer at home by composting leaves and woods mold.

Parity Pay Wins Senate Okeh, 63-19

Ohio's Taft Made Butt Of Cross-Examination On His Budget Balancing In Acid Exchange

Item To Add $212,000,000 To Appropriations For Agriculture Department

WASHINGTON, March 20—(AP)—The Senate knocked a big dent in the congressional economy program today with a 63 to 19 vote approving a $212,000,000 appropriation for "parity payments" to farmers.

Administration senators and others from farming areas overwhelmed the economy forces. The debate found Senator Taft (R), Ohio, subjected to a sharp Democratic cross-examination on his fiscal views.

The parity payment item was added to the annual appropriation bill for the Agriculture Department which the Senate is expected to pass tomorrow. It was designed to restore to farmers a portion of the purchasing power they enjoyed from 1909 to 1914. A proposal by Senators Lee (D), Oklahoma, and Bilbo (D), Mississippi, to insure full parity with a $607,000,000 appropriation was voted down, 56 to 27.

$212,000,000 Item

The bill as received from the Senate appropriations committee, which recommended the $212,000,000 parity item, proposed outlays of $922,864,000, a sum $208,968,000 greater than the total voted by the House.

The parity payments, which are in addition to almost $500,000,000 in soil conservation benefits and some $90,000,000 in loans for agricultural activities, were not included in the House bill.

The House had, in fact, slashed scores of items below President Roosevelt's budget estimates. Many of these the Senate committee restored, and today the Senate approved most of these increases in rapid, routine fashion and without debate. The additions offset some $300,000,000 in cuts made in other appropriation bills

A principal speaker for the outnumbered economy forces was Taft, who in his presidential campaigning has said that farm subsidies in some form, must be continued.

He opposed the parity payments, however, because no provision had been made for them in the budget and said that even if the budget estimates were followed, there would be a deficit of $4,000,000,000 at the end of this fiscal year and of $3,000,000,000 at the close of the next.

Must Balance Budget

"The budget must be balanced," he shouted. "The longer it remains unbalanced, the harder it will be to balance. A budget deficit of $3,000,000,000 is bad enough, and we should certainly hesitate before we step beyond it."

In response to questioning, he said he favored placing agriculture on a "parity" with industry, but preferred the soil conservation program to "parity payments."

When he had concluded, Senator Connally (D), Texas, jumped to the attack. Would Taft, he asked, support additional taxes at this session? The Ohioan replied that he would, but was not prepared to offer a tax program at this time.

"I thought that would be the answer," Connally scornfully asserted.

Successively Senators Glass (D), Virginia; Russell (D), Georgia; Clark (D), Missouri, and Clark (D), Idaho, joined Connally in questioning Taft on his economy views.

Connally said that when Taft "sees some farmer with a hole in the seat of his pants who is getting a dollar subsidy, he says that has got to stop, we've got to balance the budget."

Text of Roosevelt Speech to Farmers

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, March 8—Here's the text of President Roosevelt's address tonight to the AAA farm dinners:

As I listened to the remarks of Henry Wallace and Jim Farley just now, and in my mind's eye saw the hundreds of groups of farmers and their friends meeting throughout the country, my memory went back to the scenes of other years.

I remembered the day in September, 1932, when, at Topeka, Kan., under the very hot sun that beat down on the steps of the State Capitol, I talked with an audience of farmers about the farm problem. I gave them my pledge that, if I were called to serve in the White House, I would take the lead in action to reverse the process of agricultural decay which had been eating at our national foundations for many years.

And I have sought consistently and constantly to keep that pledge. Four days after I took office in 1933—while the banks of the country were still closed and we were sternly wrestling with the question of how to get them open again—I called the conference of farmers and leaders of farm organizations to which Secretary Wallace has referred. Seven years ago tonight the call went out to farm leaders by wire and by telephone to convene here in Washington on March 10.

"A Far-Reaching Decision"

Well do I remember the historic conference at the White House that followed. In that grave emergency past disagreements were forgotten and all the farm groups quickly united on a new farm plan.

The adoption of that plan in its essential outlines by the Congress marked a far-reaching decision in our national life. We stopped asking agriculture to pay the bill for industry's high tariff. We decided that as a nation we would no longer promote commerce and industry at the expense of agriculture. We decided that as a nation we would abandon the policy of rural neglect.

That old policy of neglect had brought ten years of depression on our farms and had contributed greatly to depression in the cities. It had hastened the bank panic which in February and early March, 1933, paralyzed business all over the United States.

In the seven years that have elapsed since that time the national farm program has properly undergone a continual evolution. That first piece of legislation—the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933—was a long step forward, but it was not perfect. As the years went by, weather conditions changed, market conditions changed—yes, and even court conditions changed. So that provisions of the farm program have been correspondingly changed.

Calls Conservation a Necessity

We have learned from experience, and have gradually adapted the program more and more closely to the needs of the individual farmer, to the needs of the nation and to the needs of the land itself. We realized that we had reached our last frontier of new lands—and had no choice but to conserve and rebuild our existing soil.

All through these seven years, one fundamental feature has run like a thread through the successive adjustment and conservation and ever-normal granary programs. That is the essential policy of localized control, with the program run by committees of farmers elected by farmers—and that goes for farmers regardless of what party they happen to be enrolled in.

Experience has amply borne out the wisdom of the safeguards with which those county associations and committees were surrounded. In three thousand counties—practically all the counties of the nation which are not occupied wholly by cities—they win respect and they deserve respect. None but those farmer committeemen themselves will ever know how they have sweated over details of the program, how they have sacrificed their own personal interests and their leisure as they spent thousands of hours and drove thousands of miles to make the program succeed.

Stresses Trade Pact Aims

Back of these committeemen, helping them in their work, giving support to the program, have been some of the great general farm organizations. Not only in the farm communities, but right here in Washington, these organizations have helped to shape and perfect the successive farm laws.

When we launched the national farm program seven years ago, we hoped that recovery in the United States would be accompanied by a great revival of our trade with other countries.

I wish I could tell you tonight that the whole world had been restored to prosperity and friendly commerce. I wish I could tell you that the markets which your fathers and grandfathers once enjoyed were again open to receive more of your wheat, your pork, your lard, your cotton, your tobacco, your fruit.

I can tell you this—that we have done many things which have helped the situation. Through our reciprocal trade program, we have tried to spread our good-neighbor philosophy through many nations of the world. That program has brought results—results not only in better markets for our industrial goods but in better markets for our farm goods—results which are mathematically proved in terms of pounds and bushels and dollars and cents. If Congress consents we shall continue that useful work.

Blow to Commerce From War

But in spite of all we have done to help preserve and restore peace in the world, the bitter truth is that the world is not at peace. As I speak to you tonight guns are thundering on the battlefields of Europe and Asia. Ships that ply the seas are exposed to the hazards of bomb and torpedo.

In the midst of a world at war we find that the foreign commerce we had managed to achieve is rudely disturbed. Some people may say, what of that? Does not our domestic trade comprise 90 per cent of all our business? Yes, that is true for the nation as a whole. But, for some industries, export trade accounts for considerably more than 10 per cent of sales. In agriculture, for example, that is true of cotton, tobacco, apples, lard, wheat and other products. And all agriculture is certain to be seriously affected if our export market disappears.

So it is more than ever important for farmers to have a government in Washington that is looking out for their interests—not just by uttering glittering generalities, but by specific policies and concrete action. It is more than ever important to maintain a national farm program that can be adapted to meet whatever emergencies arise—whether they are emergencies of drought or of lost markets overseas. It is more than ever important to have a government in Washington that can act to protect the interests of our farmers as well as our business men when foreign trade conditions are upset.

Hails Farm Plan as Democratic

In Europe economic failure has led in some lands to dictatorship. In America we are using the tools of democracy to make our economic system efficient, to preserve our freedom, and to keep away even from any talk of dictatorship. The national farm program is American democracy's response to agricultural distress. And any unprejudiced person who knows anything about the subject not only admits but proclaims the fact that our national farm program was democratically conceived and is being democratically conducted with the active help of our farmers themselves.

Furthermore, they proclaim that they know—that their Federal Government counts on farm aid and farm advice to improve that program through the process of actual experience as the need arises. That I call a truly democratic process of government.

These are troubled times when of this generation are living through. Some of us, I know, are tempted to give way to doubt and fear, even to despair.

But when we are beleaguered by thoughts like these, let us remember how the nation has come through its dark hours of the past, and take courage. Think of Adams and Jefferson and Madison as they guided the nation through the confusion of the Napoleonic period, with shipping rotting at the docks and millions of dollars of farm products stored on the wharves of the Atlantic seaboard. Think of Lincoln as year after war-torn year he sheltered in his great heart the truest aspirations of a country rent in twain.

We believe our beloved United States will come through all its trials and tribulations of the present. Ever since 1929 the people of the United States have demonstrated the stuff of which they are made.

Acclaims Response to Program

One of the reasons we know we shall win through is the national farm program, the inception of which you are commemorating tonight. The farm program is a splendid example of what 6,000,000 American families can do, when they have the will and leadership to do it.

The farmers have had a long hard struggle to get laws and programs which give them an opportunity to obtain economic and social justice, to make it possible for them to conserve the good earth which, next to our people and our tradition of freedom, is our greatest heritage.

I am happy in the thought that American farmers have gone part way along that road to economic and social justice, even though they have not reached the goal. I am happy in the thought that American farmers understand full well that other great groups, such as industrial and retail groups in the cities, great and small, such as the small business men of the nation, have not yet attained the goal of social and economic justice even though in these seven years they have made undisputed progress toward it.

Many years ago I was told by men of experience in State and national affairs that American farmers could never agree on a program. I did not share that pessimistic belief. My friends and I went out to disprove it and the farmers of America showed clearly that we were right. To them goes the honor and the glory.

In the spirit of progressive action that has animated these American farm families all of us tonight can face with confidence whatever difficulties the future may hold.

Practical Farm Relief

Addressing the National Farm Institute meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, C. B. Denman, agricultural counsel of the National Association of Food Chains, offered this pertinent advice to the agricultural trades: "Organize along commodity lines embracing all divisions of the industry; work for lower distribution cost thus benefiting consumers and producers; obtain the largest possible consumption among income groups; conduct low-range programs of advertising and promotion, including market research and such matters as quality, packaging, grading and transportation; conduct research to develop new industrial uses; and be prepared to meet emergency situations to quickly expand consumption."

The organized independent merchants, no less than the chains, have found it a sound and profitable policy to work with the farmer and his representatives in improving the technique of distribution. The result has been a narrower price spread between grower and consumer, broader and more stable markets and stepped-up buying of distressed crops through special sales drives.

More of such work is needed. That is practical farm relief which doesn't require tax subsidies and whose activities do not shift with the unpredictable winds of politics. American producers and distributors deserve congratulations on the public-spirited course they are today pursuing.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

GENERAL

The Farmer's Guide

Interesting News and Helpful Hints For Those Who Till The Soil

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"More Corn at Less Cost"

From the 1939 annual report of John W. Mitchell, District Farm Agent in North Carolina, comes this interesting account by the Gates County farm demonstration agent of an experiment in corn growing by Farmer C. G. Goodman of Corapeake, N. C. and other county farmers. "More Corn at Less Cost," is the title of the article:

"During the year 1939 there were corn demonstrations conducted in fifteen communities. There were 62 adult demonstrations which covered 87 acres. The larger number of corn demonstrations are the result of the corn-growing contest that has been conducted in the county for the past four years.

"It is very gratifying to note that the farmers in Gates County have the best corn crops that we know of. It is also interesting to note that the highest yield that we have a record of, was grown this year.

"The highest corn yield was made by C. G. Goodman of Corapeake. The two plots measured by Mr. J. W. Mitchell, and the Negro county agent had the following yields: (1) 105.4 per acre, and (2) 118.6 bushels per acre. The second highest yield was made by J. M. Lee of Corapeake 89.6, .2 more than he made last year when he lead the county. The third highest yield was made by J. Z. Booker of Corapeake, 87.7 bushels per acre. Mr. Goodman, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Booker have been the high men in the corn contest nearly every year.

"There are several other attractive yields also. Mr. John Faulk of Sunbury made a yield of 71.5 bushels per acre, and Mr. Harry Cosden of Gates made a yield of 70.8 bushels per acre. These are just a little above the average among the contestants. Another interesting phase of corn-growing this year is a variety demonstration which was conducted by R. A. Harrell of Eure. These thirteen varieties averaged from 53.23, to 72.86 bushels per acre."

* * * *

Poultry Raising Profitable Business For Those Who Know the Ropes

For those who know the ropes, raising poultry is still a very profitable business as this item from District Agent John W. Mitchell's report shows: "The poultry industry among Negro farmers in North Carolina is steadily on the increase. Each year it is to be observed that more Negroes are providing better facilities for raising chickens, and the size of the flocks are larger. From various counties encouraging reports are made similar to the following:

"Poultry-raising as a livelihood for Miss Annie Evans is continuing to make a profit for her after two years of experience. This year Miss Evans is selling all of her old chickens and saving 225 pullets from the 400—AAA Barred Rock chicks purchased this Spring from the Raleigh hatchery.

"She has also incubated over 800 chicks this year to sell for fryers from eggs produced by her own flock. She has a hatch of 59 per cent but the death rate was fairly high for baby chicks. Miss Evans made a net profit of $268.73 thus far for the year."

* * * *

Farm Credit Administration Aims To Help Farmers Stay On The Land

The Farm Credit Administration, through the Federal land banks and Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, is going to help farmers stay on the land, and in so doing expects to protect and not jeopardize the stake which farmers have in cooperative credit, A. G. Black, governor of the Farm Credit Administration recently told the general agents of the 12 districts.

"Some of our national farm loan associations have already suffered serious losses by selling real estate at a loss or carrying it at a loss, and I believe these local credit institutions owned and operated by farmers are in a better position to tell what the real value of a farm is than someone coming to the community from the bank for a day or so," Mr. Black said.

"The Federal land banks now have more than 100 million dollars worth of real estate on hand, but I think if you will run over the record, association by association, you will find the heavy losses are in the associations where foreclosures have been most frequent.

"Although farmers have a substantial amount invested in their NFLAs," Mr. Black asserted, their greatest stake in cooperative credit is in the reputation for dependable credit which the Federal land banks have built up over 20 years. These banks introduced long term amortized farm loans helping hundreds of thousands of farmers to get out of debt."

Farm Diets Rate Best In Regions Of United States, Article Reveals

"The family of a laborer making $500 a year might never see many of the foods served regularly at the table of a corporation president with an income of $100,000," says an article on Present Day Diets in the United States in the current Yearbook of Agriculture. "Yet in both instances the foods comprising the diets can be classed into the same dozen or so food groups and the food values can be translated into the same nutritional terms," according to Hazel K. Stiebeling and Callie Mae Coons of the Bureau of Home Economics.

After surveys covering diets of representative groups in the various parts of the country, the food economists have translated the items into nutritional equivalents and they find that a larger proportion of farm families than city families have fair or good diets. This superiority of farm diets is traceable to the better supply of protective foods that the farms furnish—milk, butter, eggs, fresh vegeables, and fruits.

In every region of the country families living on farms tend to rank first in the proportion that have good diets. Next in rank as to goodness of diet come the families in the large and middle-sized cities. Diets in the villages rank lowest of all because many villagers do not have much home-produced food, nor do they have access to as good an assortment as is offered in metropolitan markets.

Race Farmer Described As Real Victim Of Mistaken Federal Agricultural Policy

Surface Benefits Go to Big Landlords Rather Than Small Farmers—Negro Farmers, Although They Compose Large Portion of Those In Need, Are Not Given Representation On Supervisory Bodies.

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

WASHINGTON, Mar. 14—Truly, "the forgotten man" of this era of New Dealism, "ill-fed, ill-clad, and ill-housed," is the Negro farmer, the majority of whom reside in the South. They have no vote, They are disfranchised. They do not come within the political programs of the New Deal. They are not organized. They are not a pressure group. They have suffered grievously during these past seven years of agricultural experimentation.

Karl Steinbeck, in a diagnosis of the ills of the Southern farmer, Negro and white farmers calls attention to the fact that, under the "plowing under" edict, thousands of Negro as well as white farmers, have lived a hand-to-mouth existence because the compensation they were to receive for land taken out of cultivation was consumed by avaricious, brow-beating landlords.

The situation developed into a mathematical problem in economics—reduction in acerage—reduction in work—destitution.

LANDLORD FARMERS DEVOUR CHECKS

Statistics show that 90.7 per cent of Negro farmers are in 11 southern states. The government appropriated $227,000,000 for rental and benefit checks under its cotton acerage reduction program alone. It has been estimated that the farmers, both white and black, received about 3 out of every 1,000 of these compensation checks. The other 9 7 were devoured by landlords and other birds of prey through a multitude of fraudulent subterfuges.

Farm relief under the guise of "subsistence farms," he says, as operated through the Government's Resettlement Administration, is a farce. Negro and white farmers are expected to live on 30 cents a day, yet are denied by the Social Security Act, any right to old age pensions, unemployment benefits, or any other form of social insurance. Instead, farm jobs are provided which pay the magnificent sum of $19 to $21 a month, or 12 to 15 cents an hour. Is this a reassuring picture to the southern farmer, particularly the Negro farmer?

This situation is so desperate that when the Second National conference on the Problems of the Negro met here in Washington, it devoted much of its time to a survey of the facts, and a discussion of the sorry plight of the neglected Negro farmer, who is in fact and truth "the man farthest down," and forgotten.

RACE SHOULD BE REPRESENTED

The conference declared that a democratic administration of the provisions of the Bankhead Act would indicate the equitable inclusion of all elements of the population in the benefits accruing from and the carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

In many States and counties in South, it reported, the percentage of Negroes in the total farm population, as well as in the farm-tenant population, unquestionably warrants the inclusion of Negroes in the membership of State and County-Farm-Tenant committees the conference insisted.

By the same token, it said, there should be inclusion of Negroes on local Acerage Allotment Committees of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, or any other local committees for the administering of Federal programs where Negroes are vitally concerned.

The conference requested the Secretary of Agriculture, as representatives of the Federal Government, to remedy the undemocratic practice now prevailing in which Negroes do not receive appointment on these committees, that they may protect their interests.

DAY LABORERS TAKE PLACE OF TENANTS

As a result of forces growing out of the prolonged agricultural depression and changes in the organization of many plantations the conference pointed out, there is occuring a more or less rapid shift from tenancy to day labor in many sections of the Cotton Belt.

In these areas Negroes are faced with a growing agricultural group of landless, propertyless, and often casual laborers, of which group Negroes are a majority. To a considerable extent this represents total displacement of families and unemployment.

The conference recommended that the Federal Government make careful studies of this sitcation with a view to providing a program for the security and protection of these people.

Present studies of the landlord-tenant law of the various southern states show that legislation in this regard is archaic, inadequate, inconsistent and weighted heavily with protection of the landlord as opposed to the tenant. Landlord-Tenant contracts in the Southern States are of a loose, oral variety and last only for one year in most cases, with no assurance of renewal.

LAWS DESIGNED TO PROTECT LANDLORDS

Laws regarding responsibility for repairs, removal of implements, freedom of cultivation and disposal of the crop, control of the person of the tenant, and in regard to landlord liens, are generally designed to protect the interests of the landlord. A few states, notably Oklahoma, Texas and North Carolina, have taken some steps toward liberalizing and rationalizing their Landlord-Tenant laws, but these are all.

The conference recommended that states receiving Federal funds intended to improve tenancy conditions, be required to provide guarantees of more adequate and just Landlord-Tenant legislation within a stated period. The conference further recommended that Federal funds be withheld from states failing to meet this requirement at the end of the period indicated.

NOTHING DONE FOR MAN WITH HOE

What has been done by the Federal Government to change these conditions, to rectify the unjust, unfair techniques which are doing the Negro farmer to death? Nothing, practically nothing, to give this "man with the hoe" hope and encouragement that he may look forward to a better day.

November 15, 1940

'Turn To Soil,' Negroes Urged By Educator

Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert Speaks at Waycross Forest Fete.

WAYCROSS, Ga., Nov. 15.—(AP) A Negro college president urged his people today to turn to farming as a way of life.

Speaking at the annual Slash Pine Festival, in a gathering for Negroes, Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, of Georgia State College, declared agriculture offered great opportunity for those who followed it.

He praised the late Dr. Charles H. Herty, for whom he said the recently constructed agricultural building at Georgia State College was named, describing him as a great pioneering genius of the south.

"Dr. Herty," he said, "pointed out to the south ways in which underprivileged people might look forward to being able to own their own souls. Dr. Herty elevated the pine tree to a place of eminence in the farm program of the south. Pine tree culture has now become a distinct part of every progressive farm program."

Dr. Hubert urged Negro men and women to obtain a piece of land, plant it in trees, and protect it from fire and destructive insects in order that Negroes might have a more prominent place in the economic life of the southeast.

Urging that a picture of Dr. Herty, with his story, be placed in every Negro school in Georgia, Dr. Hubert declared:

"Children should be brought up to an appreciation of the importance and value of trees as soil builders in offering us a future economic opportunity."

The Unprivileged Class

NOV 28 1940

Representative Stephen Pace, of Americus speaking in Atlanta on Tuesday, warned cotton men of the south that cotton parity payments and soil conservation funds would, in all probability have to be drastically reduced in 1942 because of the demands of the defense program.

Thus it is indicated that, once again, it will be the cotton farmer of the south who will have to pay an unfair share of the national bill for a national necessity, while his fellow citizens, the workers in the defense factories, take advantage of the emergency to profit.

A strike for higher wages in the Vultee Aircraft Corporation, engaged in building planes for defense and for the British, has just been settled by granting the strikers the wage increase they asked. This demand for higher wages closed that factory for 12 days as effectively as any bombers could close a similar plant in Britain today.

The American Aluminum Company, sole source of this essential metal in airplane construction, is closed down, with no sign of reopening, because the CIO union there objects to the presence of one $27-a-week employe and demands that he be fired. At least, that is the excuse advanced by the strikers, though the company declares it is really a fight over payment of union dues, probably an effort to force the company to collect the dues for the union before delivering the pay envelopes to the workers.

Truly, the farmer is the unprivileged class in the modern United States. While organized labor ruthlessly demands this, that or the other privilege and never hesitates at sabotaging the national defense program in order to gain more and more privileges, the farmer struggles practically unaided against a disappearing export market for his products, against steadily declining prices and is told that benefits gained after years of struggle will be withdrawn soon, to help pay for the cost of the national defense, a cost made higher because of the unscrupulous big stick wielded by labor. The strike-forced increase in wages at the Vultee plant alone involves an annual increase of $1,400,000.

Unless Americans all can forget, at least for the period of the emergency, class distinctions and class privileges, it is inevitable that, before many years have passed, this country will surrender to the totalitarian forces loosed in the world. Then, under some American Hitler, neither farm workers nor factory workers, toilers in fields or industries or offices, will receive more than bare subsistence and there will be no such thing as a limit on the hours of work. Nor will there be any unions at all.

It ofttimes seems that the people of this country take perverse delight in strangling the fowl that lays the golden eggs of American prosperity.

No Matter Who Wins War American Farmer Will Lose, Agriculture Leaders Fear

Of Possible Outcomes, British Victory Would Be Best Alternative, Since Empire Would Be Market Again

DEC 23 1940

By OVID MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—What kind of overseas markets will American farmers find for their products when peace finally comes?

This question is uppermost in the minds of Agriculture Department officials. Its answer may ease or complicate problems confronting American agriculture, such as elevators and warehouses bulging with crop surpluses and a farm production machine throttled far below its capacity.

Will peace, they ask, bring back the good old days of the second half of the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century when American foreign trade in farm products flourished in an atmosphere of relatively free trade policies?

Or will it continue to stagnate under restrictive measures imposed in recent years by totalitarian regimes intent on making themselves self-sufficient?

The future economic status of thousands of American farmers depends, officials say, on the answer. Unless peace brings about a sharp increase in the volume of exports, many who now depend upon the soil for a livelihood may be forced to seek incomes elsewhere.

Depends On War's End

The answer may depend largely on the outcome of the war. The Department's foreign trade authorities believe that a Briitsh victory would certainly provide an atmosphere more favorable to international political and economic cooperation than a German victory.

But they do not believe defeat of the dictator nations would bring back big markets for America's surplus cotton, wheat, lard, pork, fruits, tobacco and other items formerly exported in large quantities.

A British victory, they say, undoubtedly would find that nation giving its empire producers preference.

Report Analyzes Effects

The prospects are described in a departmental program board report as follows:

"The return of liberal trade policies would be slow and painful, the restoration of our export volume to 1934-39 levels doubtful. While our farm export trade on the whole could not fail to benefit from a more liberal trade regime, it would still be faced with many serious problems from the impoverishment of Europe, difficulties of transition from a war to a peace economy, competition of low-cost supplies from other countries, and our reluctance to accept increasing imports of goods in payment for exports."

The report concluded that, while a British victory surely would not solve America's farm surplus problem or give this country a 19th century volume of trade, "it would, so far as our farm exports are concerned, be the least painful of all possible outcomes of the war."

Compromise Temporary Cure

A compromise peace, officials state, might continue the status quo, leaving the continent of Europe to the domination of Germany and Italy while the British Empire remained largely intact.

"About the only hopeful result from the standpoint of our agricultural export trade," the report said, "would be that the United Kingdom, our largest foreign market for farm products, normally taking about a third of our agricultural exports, would still be open to our trade."

Such an advantage, the report added, might be temporary and of limited proportions because a compromise peace with the dictators "is likely to be merely an armed truce with the specter of war constantly in the background. Such conditions could be expected to have an unfavorable repercussion on consumption and the British standard of live."

Great Britain Would Suffer

"Moreover, Great Britain would undoubtedly suffer economically from the difficulty of trading with totalitarian Europe and from the severe competition from the dictatorships it would meet in overseas markets," the report says. "Consequently the British ability to pay for purchases abroad by exports of goods is likely to be greatly diminished. . . . On the other hand, British agricultural import requirements may be reduced because of a stationary or even a declining population and because of greater domestic production."

The third alternative—A complete victory of the dictatorships—Germany, the spokesmen of which profess the aim of extending their led by Nazi Germany—would, the

United States Farmer Victimized

"The United States as a supplier of agricultural products was obviously discriminated against," the departmental report says. "There history shows that during years 1909 to 1913, Germany 0,000,000 worth of American products, or a fifth of our farm export trade would fare had declined to $36,- than it did in Nazi Germany."

Officials believe a German-dominated Europe would result in a reduction of agricultural imports because of (1) the probable lowering of the European standard of living

The Unprivileged Class

NOV 28 1940

Representative Stephen Pace, of Americus speaking in Atlanta on Tuesday, warned cotton men of the south that cotton parity payments and soil conservation funds would, in all probability have to be drastically reduced in 1942 because of the demands of the defense program.

The Constitution

Thus it is indicated that once again, it will be the cotton farmer of the south who will have to pay an unfair share of the national bill for a national necessity, while his fellow citizens, the workers in the defense factories, take advantage of the emergency to profit.

A strike for higher wages in the Vultee Aircraft Corporation, engaged in building planes for defense and for the British, has just been settled by granting the strikers the wage increase they asked. This demand for higher wages closed that factory for 12 days as effectively as any bombers could close a similar plant in Britain today.

Atlanta, Ga.

The American Aluminum Company, sole source of this essential metal in airplane construction, is closed down, with no sign of reopening, because the CIO union there objects to the presence of one $27-a-week employe and demands that he be fired. At least, that is the excuse advanced by the strikers, though the company declares it is really a fight over payment of union dues, probably an effort to force the company to collect the dues for the union before delivering the pay envelopes to the workers.

Truly, the farmer is the unprivileged class in the modern United States. While organized labor ruthlessly demands this, that or the other privilege and never hesitates at sabotaging the national defense program in order to gain more and more privileges, the farmer struggles practically unaided against a disappearing export market for his products, against steadily declining prices and is told that benefits gained after years of struggle will be withdrawn soon, to help pay for the cost of the national defense, a cost made higher because of the unscrupulous big stick wielded by labor. The strike-forced increase in wages at the Vultee plant alone involves an annual increase of $1,400,000.

Unless Americans all can forget, at least for the period of the emergency, class distinctions and class privileges, it is inevitable that, before many years have passed, this country will surrender to the totalitarian forces loosed in the world. Then, under some American Hitler, neither farm workers nor factory workers, toilers in fields or industries or offices, will receive more than bare subsistence and there will be no such thing as a limit on the hours of work. Nor will there be any unions at all.

It ofttimes seems that the people of this country take perverse delight in strangling the fowl that lays the golden eggs of American prosperity.

No Matter Who Wins War American Farmer Will Lose, Agriculture Leaders Fear

Commercial Appeal
Memphis Tenn.

Of Possible Outcomes, British Victory Would Be Best Alternative, Since Empire Would Be Market Again

DEC 23 1940

By OVID MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—What kind of overseas markets will American farmers find for their products when peace finally comes?

This question is uppermost in the minds of Agriculture Department officials. Its answer may ease or complicate problems confronting American agriculture, such as elevators and warehouses bulging with crop surpluses and a farm production machine throttled far below its capacity.

Will peace, they ask, bring back the good old days of the second half of the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century when American foreign trade in farm products flourished in an atmosphere of relatively free trade policies?

Or will it continue to stagnate under restrictive measures imposed in recent years by totalitarian regimes intent on making themselves self-sufficient?

The future economic status of thousands of American farmers depends, officials say, on the answer. Unless peace brings about a sharp increase in the volume of exports, many who now depend upon the soil for a livelihood may be forced to seek incomes elsewhere.

Depends On War's End

The answer may depend largely on the outcome of the war. The Department's foreign trade authorities believe that a Briitsh victory would certainly provide an atmosphere more favorable to international political and economic cooperation than a German victory.

But they do not believe defeat of the dictator nations would bring back big markets for America's surplus cotton, wheat, lard, pork, fruits, tobacco and other items formerly exported in large quantities.

A British victory, they say, undoubtedly would find that nation giving its empire producers preference.

Report Analyzes Effects

The prospects are described in a departmental program board report as follows:

"The return of liberal trade policies would be slow and painful, the restoration of our export volume to 1934-39 levels doubtful. While our farm export trade on the whole could not fail to benefit from a more liberal trade regime, it would still be faced with many serious problems from the impoverishment of Europe, difficulties of transition from a war to a peace economy, competition of low-cost supplies from other countries, and our reluctance to accept increasing imports of goods in payment for exports."

The report concluded that, while a British victory surely would not solve America's farm surplus problem or give this country a 19th century volume of trade, "it would, so far as our farm exports are concerned, be the least painful of all possible outcomes of the war."

Compromise Temporary Cure

A compromise peace, officials state, might continue the status quo, leaving the continent of Europe to the domination of Germany and Italy while the British Empire remained largely intact.

"About the only hopeful result from the standpoint of our agricultural export trade," the report said, "would be that the United Kingdom, our largest foreign market for farm products, normally taking about a third of our agricultural exports, would still be open to our trade."

Such an advantage, the report added, might be temporary and of limited proportions because a compromise peace with the dictators "is likely to be merely an armed truce with the specter of war constantly in the background. Such conditions could be expected to have an unfavorable repercussion on consumption and the British standard of live."

Great Britain Would Suffer

"Moreover, Great Britain would undoubtedly suffer economically from the difficulty of trading with totalitarian Europe and from the severe competition from the dictatorships it would meet in overseas markets," the report says. "Consequently the British ability to pay for purchases abroad by exports of goods is likely to be greatly diminished. . . . On the other hand, British agricultural import requirements may be reduced because of a stationary or even a declining population and because of greater domestic production."

The third alternative—A complete victory of the dictatorships—would, the report declares, greatly jeopardize America's agricultural trade with the whole of Europe and probably much of Asia as well.

Europe before the war took the rest of Europe's farm exports.

Germany Poor Market

"What might happen to our European trade may be gauged," the report says, "from the history of our commercial relations with Nazi Germany. That history shows that during the years 1909 to 1913, Germany took $210,000,000 worth of American products, or a fifth of our farm export trade would fare than it did in Nazi Germany."

Officials believe a German-dominated Europe would result in a reduction of agricultural imports because of (1) the probable lowering of the European standard of liv-

United States Farmer Victimized

"The United States as a supplier of agricultural products was obviously discriminated against," the departmental report says. "There is no good reason to expect that our farm export trade would fare better in a Nazi-dominated Europe

ing under the dictatorships, and (2) a possible increase in European agricultural production and in the use of substitutes, which the Nazis would undoubtedly press in the rest of Europe as they did in their own country.

Politics Would Hurt

They also believe United States products would be strongly discriminated against in favor of those from other countries, especially South American, because of unsatisfactory political relations with the dictatorships, because of the opposition of the dictatorships to a system of international exchange based on the use of gold (which, with the exception of Russia, they lack), and because the United States normally sells more goods to Europe than it buys from her, thus making bilateral barter arrangements difficult.

Farm officials believe that whether the British or the Axis Powers win, the Federal Government will have to take a greater role in the conduct of foreign trade.

They say a British victory would necessitate United States participation in post-war reconstruction. This participation might take the form of more liberal credits and Government loans to Europe for purchase of our agricultural surpluses in cases where importing countries have no other means of obtaining credit, and possibly large-scale charitable distribution of American foodstuffs.

Need South American Aid

A German-Italian victory, on the other hand, might require, they say, that the Government itself do all the dealing with foreign buyers.

DEC 23 1940

"It is no more likely," officials say, "that international trading of the individual competitive type would bring satisfactory and equitable results than would the dealing of an individual consumer with a monopoly or individual bargaining with a giant corporation."

In order to be successful in dealing with European dictatorships, the United States would need, officials declare, co-operation of producers in other countries, especially South America. This is one of the motives for the program of interAmerican economic co-operation now being sponsored by the United States in the interest of hemispheric defense.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
March 4, 1940

The Negro, Two Pictures

IN an address at Howard University, the negro school in Washington, Secretary Wallace had several striking remarks to make about the negro, especially the Southern negro.

"The dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer," said Secretary Wallace, "is or paramount importance to the negro race, because half of the American negroes are Southern farmers, and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group." And this is true. The secretary goes too far, however, when he says that "much of the South is close to starvation." Much of the South is not close to starvation. If federal assistance were withdrawn all over the country, the South would suffer, but it would not suffer as much, for instance, as the great urban centers of the East from whence comes the urge to reform us. We have known want and poverty in the South, but never in all history of this section have we known famine. We have want and poverty in the South today, but the statement that "much of the South is close to starvation" is an absurdity which no man familiar with conditions would make.

We would like for Secretary Wallace to consider the difference between the negro of the South and the negro of New York—the negro of Harlem. In the South, we have some 15,000,000 or 16,000,000 whites, and the Eastern reformers demand to know why we cannot take care of some 9,000,000 or 10,000,000 negroes. They vilify us—and yet they ignore the conditions of New York. In New York, we have a great city of some 7,000,000 people, and yet this great city is unable to care for a mere handful of 350,000 negroes. The 15,000,000 whites in the South are expected to have no difficulty in fitting 10,000,000 negroes into their economic picture, without want and poverty, and yet the 7,000,000 whites in New York, living in the richest city on the globe, have made a miserable failure of fitting 350,000 negroes into their picture! In New York, on a percentage basis, there are more negroes on relief, more negroes in outright distress, and more political and economic unrest among the negroes than in any part of the South. What do the reformers intend to do about it?

Atlanta Ga Journal
January 26. 1940

Negroes Advised to Go South and Farm

ORANGEBURG, S. C., Jan. 26. (AP)—Negroes were advised to "go South and farm" today by Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College.

Addressing the annual meetnig of Negro farmers and farm leaders at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Dr. Hubert said "the finest and best opportunity for the masses of Negroes is on the farm."

"The South offers to the Negro farmer his surest way to economic independence. We have cheap land, an inviting climate and a growing spirit of toleration and goodwill on the part of our white friends.

"A new day is dawning in the South. The challenge is to you and to me to get at the base of things here on the farms, and dignify labor so that we and our people will enjoy country life."

Dothan, Ala Eagle
March 8, 1940

LOW INCOME IN NATION ARE HELD BARRIER TO GOODS

Secretary Wallace Says Points Especially To Southern Tenant Farmer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary Wallace declared Saturday night that no foreign dictator had raised a higher barrier against American goods than "we have built ourselves" around low-income groups in this country, particularly Southern tenant farmers.

"The unfilled needs of our own citizens," he said, "constitute the biggest potential market for American industry."

In an address prepared for a banquet on the 73rd anniversary of the founding of Howard University, a Negro school, Wallace said that New Deal farm programs had opened "a path in the wilderness" that may lead to improved economic and social conditions for underprivileged members of both the white and Negro races.

ONE-CROP FARMING

"The dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer is of paramount importance to the Negro race, because half the American Negroes are Southern farmers, and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group."

One-crop farming, a "Short-sighted" tenure system, lack of adequate credit, soil depletion and mechanization have created in the South "widespread poverty, hopelessness and unrest which challenge our democracy," he said.

As a result, he said, "much of the South is close to starvation" and "is closed to American products for which we are trying to find markets."

The secretary said the answer to the problem in the South may be "a program of subsistence farming, accompanied by a supplemental rural works program, so planned that it would not interfere with their subsistence farming but would be of great benefit to the areas where the work is performed.

PROFIT TO ALL

"Aside from the needs of these families, there is a vast field in the South for useful activity. Here is a place where idle men and idle money could be put to work with profit to all. Thousands of men could be kept busy for years to the nations advantage, rebuilding the South's forests, preserving and restoring the South's land, controlling floods, and housing the South's rural population."

Wallace suggested that a vast home construction program in the South would do much to cure that region's troubles. He estimated that Southern farmers needed a million new homes. Construction of such homes under a governmental loan program, he said, would provide employment for thousands of men.

"Some people think it is not the business of government to sponsor programs of the type that have been placed in effect during the last seven years," he said "But without such government cooperation, many problems in the South and elsewhere would be completely impossible of solution."

Nashville Tenn Tennessean
March 3, 1940

WALLACE ASSAILS LOW FARM INCOME

Agriculture Secretary Attacks Pay Earned by Southern Tenant Farmers

WASHINGTON, March 2—(AP)—Secretary Wallace declared tonight that no foreign dictatorship had raised a higher barrier against American goods than "we have built ourselves" around low-income groups in this country, particularly Southern tenant farmers.

"The unfilled needs of our own citizens," he said, "constitute the biggest potential market for American industry."

In an address prepared for a banquet on the 73rd anniversary of the founding of Howard University, a Negro school, Wallace said that New Deal farm programs had opened "a path in the wilderness" that may lead to improved economic and social conditions for underprivileged members of both the white and Negro races.

"The dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer is of paramount importance to the Negro race, because half the American Negroes are Southern farmers, and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group.' One-crop farming, a "short-sided' tenure system, lack of adequate credit, soil depletion and mechanization have created in the South 'widespread poverty, hopelessness and unrest which challenge our democracy" he said.

As a result, he said, "much of the South is close to starvation," and 'is closed to American products for which we are trying to find markets."

"life on the farm may be difficult, but where else is it possible for Negroes to have an equal chance at making a satisfying life for themselves?"

Country schools, said Hubert should be manned only by teachers who are interested in country life.

Atlanta Ga Journal
March 29, 1940

Farming Offers Negro His Best Chance, College Head Asserts

SPARTANBURG, S. C., March 9.—(AP)—Competition in urban enters "has become so militant hat there is less and less chance or any large number of Negroes o operate productive enterprises n cities," Benjamin F. Hubert, resident of the Georgia State College, said here Friday.

Addressing Negro farmers of the Piedmont section of South Carolina, he praised the advantages of farm life, but said "many well-intentioned" persons were advising Negro youth that farms offer little chance for success.

"When people make such statements," said Hubert, "they should be asked to direct Negroes to some other business, place or occupation other than farming where the masses of Negroes own and operate productive enterprises of their own that enable them in large numbers to earn a living."

Discussing schools Hubert said it was "high time that we dispensed with teachers who care nothing for the school or the people who patronize the school except for the salaries that they receive."

A real teacher, he said " will help farmers and their wives to show boys and girls the beauty, dignity, adventure and independence that the farm offers to Negroes.

'OLD SOUTH' FARM ABANDONS COTTON, FINDS PEANUTS BEST

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)

LEESBURG—Typical of the old South is the successful operation of Neyami, the 6,000-acre plantation of E. L. Bell halfway between Leesburg and Smithville on the Dixie highway.

"As I see life on a plantation," said Mrs. Bell, "it is composed of ups and downs, and fortunately in our case, it has been mostly ups." Mrs. Bell is the husband's chief assistant.

One of the "downs" referred to was the invasion of the boll weevil. Before that time cotton was really king on this plantation which produced from 500 to 600 bales annually. In one year's time, this dropped to 10 bales and some of the croppers did not pick even one lock of cotton.

Now peanut-raising is the major industry.

In those days, too, a gin operated six days a week during the cotton season. A grist mill and cane mill of that period have been discontinued. Another great loss which has been overcome was the destruction by fire of stock, machinery, feed and farming equipment representing thousands of dollars.

Not a Bridle Left

"Not even a bridle was left to put on the old mules which were kept separately," said Mrs. Bell.

Much of the success here is due to the capable management of farm labor which has been learned through 55 successive years of farming. The roving sharecropper, recognized now as one of the economic problems of the South, is not found here, for some of the Negroes have lived here from 10 to 35 years.

"Mose is done been a foolin' with rosin, an' is nelly bout burnt his se'f to death," was the message brought to Mrs. Bell one morning recently. A telephone call for a doctor was put in and soon medical aid was brought to the suffering man. They have good homes provided for them and in addition have patches of land for their own use for gardens. They share equally in the corn crop and have their own hogs and cows.

Annual Barbecue

A barbecue for the entire force is given annually at the time of laying by of crops. This is supervised personally by Mr. and Mrs. Bell. Last year 265 trays were necessary to serve members of the 35 families present.

The homes of the Negroes who have lived here so long are located on the old Bond's Trail which traverses the place.

Parallel now with this and furnishing the modern touch are the Central of Georgia railroad, a paved highway, telephone, telegraph and power lines. The Southeastern pipe line also crosses the place. In July the federal government will erect a beacon light for planes on the Atlanta-Tallahassee route.

This plantation now has turned to peanuts as its major money crop. This is in line with other farmers of this county which pioneered in peanuts in this section and has the largest acreage allotment under the Triple A.

FARMERS LOSING MONEY

Tennessee farmers for the past eight years on the average have annually received $74,000,000 less for their produce than they did from 1924 to 1929, says Frank Gannett, Rochester, N. Y. publisher and candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination.

"For Tennessee agriculture as a whole," he continued, "the annual average gross income for eigh years, including some government payments, has been only $153,000,000. This is a drop of about $300 per farm family from the $232,000,000 average of 1924-1929.

"What would it have meant in increased prosperity for the state of Tennessee, for the merchants, the industries of Tennessee and neighboring states and for national employment if Tennessee farmers' incomes had been at normal levels?" he asked.

A WORD FOR THE NEGRO

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Cotton is still king among farmers' products. Diversification helps to keep it on the throne. No one plant like cotton has such a variety of essential things to civilization, (space here fails us to tell of all). It not only clothes the naked, but has food and medicine for man and beast. Cotton made the South during slavery, and as the saying goes—the Negro and the mule made the cotton—God making them all. All three of these do their best while the temperature is rising, and "somebody must work in the sun."

One of Georgia's leaders whose hobby is raising cotton, declares that the mule's intelligence was highly displayed when he refused to walk on the cotton for it to be ploughed up (he had been trained to pull the plow beside the cotton) until he was whipped on it. Another philosopher states that "civilization goes on the back of the mule even though his back is sore." It is a pity for so many of these faithful animals to suffer and starve in old age.

Perhaps there is not a county in South Georgia where there is not one or more Negro families exemplifying a high type of citizenship when it comes to keeping out of the toils of the law—sober and self-supporting. You can ruin people by giving charity instead of a chance to earn. Self respect is the only thing that saves people. Doing right business together makes good friends and there are cases of friendship between the white and colored man not even surpassed by that of David and Jonathan or Damon and Pythias. He has served by your sick bed, cultivated our crops, dug our wells, dipped our gum, chopped our cross ties, kept our sanitary conditions good, etc.

As an educator, scientist, worker and good neighbor, he seems to excel the Indian. Some of them have earned and operate their own plantations with success and all the glory that goes with it. The wise Negro knows that intoxicants (and their result) are his worst enemy. In countries where there are two or more races, the race problem is hard to solve (usually a slow process) but all problems can be solved under a just government with a public school system. How proud the Negro seems to be of Old Glory waving over his school building—be it ever so humble. Social equality seems to be as foreign to his thoughts as suicide and whoever heard of a Negro doing this, except when drunk? What he wants is consideration of a just government (due all human beings) which leave him alone. His progress seems to be accountable for his ability to make friends with the white man; his capacity for education—training his children in manners and to work, and his devotion to his church.

R. T. OWEN.
Kite, Ga.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

GENERAL

SAVE FARM TENANCY AID!

The president recommended a $25,000,000 item in the department of agriculture appropriation bill for the continuation of the Tenant Purchase program during the next fiscal year. This program is authorized by the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, under which the Farm Security Administration makes loans to competent tenants and for the purchase of farms. This recommendation constituted a reduction of $15,000,000, or 37 1-2 per cent, under the appropriation for the current fiscal year.

In reporting the bill, the house appropriations committee eliminated all funds for the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Program; and a vigorous effort to restore this item on the floor proved unsuccessful, primarily because the vote was taken late at night, while many of the members were absent.

The senate amended the bill to authorize the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to advance $50,000,000 during the next fiscal year for Bankhead-Jones Tenant loans, and to provide a direct appropriation of 5 per cent of the amount for administration expenses. This amendment was approved by the Senate without a single dissenting vote.

This item of the agricultural appropriation bill probably will be referred back to the house for a vote within a few days.

If the house refuses to accept the senate amendment, it would wipe out one of the most successful and important parts of the farm program. It would halt the government's efforts to stabilize the small farmer on the land; at a time when the twin problems of tenancy and migration are growing more serious than ever before in our history.

The senate amendment would not impose any burden on the federal treasury for these tenant loans, and would involve only a very small appropriation for administrative expenses. All funds for the loans themselves would be advanced by the RFC. This procedure seems sound and highly desirable since the loans are entirely self-liquidating. In fact, at the end of the first year of operation the borrowers actually had repaid 165 per cent of maturities since many of them were able to make substantial payments in advance. Moreover, every loan is secured by a first mortgage on real estate which is conservatively valued both by government appraisers and by committees of local farmers.

The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Loan program has proved extremely popular with both tenants and landlords, and has received wholehearted support from the press and from the businessmen in farming areas. If the house refuses to accept the senate amendment it would destroy this program after three years of successful operation.

Save The Farm Tenant Plan!

The question of providing funds for continuation of the farm tenant purchase program is expected to come up for final action in Congress this week.

Unless the House of Representatives accepts the Senate amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill making provision for carrying on this vitally important program, one of the greatest and most hopeful undertakings ever started by the United States government will be stopped in its tracks, and perhaps permanently ended.

This should not be allowed to happen. The blight of farm tenancy, affecting not only our nation's agriculture, but all our national economy, is too big and urgent a problem to be ignored, even for one year.

Yet, unless the House changes its previous stand, the tenant purchase system set up by the Bankhead-Jones act will not be able to operate beyond the present fiscal year. The House failed to provide funds for this program when it passed the agricultural appropriation bill some weeks ago.

This omission was widely regarded as part of the House's "economy" drive. If it was, it was extremely poor economy—the penny-wise-and-pound-foolish sort of economizing. For under this program the federal government merely lends money on long-time, low-interest terms to enable qualified tenant farmers and share-croppers to buy farms of their own. And the money is paid back to the government by the farmers, so the loans are self-liquidating.

When the agricultural appropriation bill reached the Senate, Senator John H. Bankhead, father of the plan, with the aid of other senators, amended the measure to provide $50,000,000 for making tenant purchase loans during the fiscal year 1941.

The Senate did not appropriate the money directly. Instead, it authorized the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to lend that amount to the Farm Security Administration to be used for this purpose. Thus the Senate avoided increasing the total of agricultural appropriations in the pending bill for this purpose—although it did provide for some increases in other items in the measure. No one could say, therefore, that the Senate provision for farm tenant loans was a blow at economy. The only direct appropriation made by the Senate in this connection was one of 5 per cent of the amount involved for administrative expenses, which is only $2,500,000.

Tenancy, particularly in the South, is so widespread that the problem is one of the most serious before the country today. In the South approximately two-thirds of all farmers are tenants or share-croppers. It should require no argument to convince anyone that not only the farmers, but the country as a whole, would be better off if more farmers owned the farms they operate.

The Farm Security Administration, under the Bankhead-Jones act, is promoting this desirable end by lending money to farmers for as much as 40 years, at 3 per cent interest, to help them buy farms. Only well-qualified farmers are permitted to borrow, the applications for loans being passed on in every case by a committee of local farmers.

This year applications for tenant-purchase loans were made by 133,000 farmers. Only 6,971 loans can be made this year. But as the program continues its operations will expand from year to year, and more and more qualified farmers will be aided.

No one need fear that this money is being wasted, or that the program will not be self-liquidating. The fact is that at the end of the first year of its operation $92,544 fell due on tenant-purchase loans, but under the provision for paying the money back faster if the borrower wished to do so, the total paid back to the government in the first year was $152,779, or 165 per cent of maturity.

This program has already proved a success in a few short years. It would be inexcusable not to continue it. The House ought to act without hesitation to save the farm tenant program.

FARMERS LOSING MONEY

Tennessee farmers for the past eight years on the average have annually received $74,000,000 less for their product than they did from 1924 to 1929, say Frank Gannett, Rochester, N. Y. publisher and candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination.

"For Tennessee agriculture as a whole," he continued, "the annual average gross income for eigh years, including some government payments, has been only $158,000,000. This is a drop of about $300 per farm family from the $232,000,000 average of 1924-1929.

"What would it have meant in increased prosperity for the state of Tennessee, for the merchants, the industries of Tennessee and neighboring states and for national employment if Tennessee farmers' incomes had been at normal levels?" he asked.

Tenant Purchase Program

The house of representatives is expected to vote this week on restoration of funds for the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant program.

It is important to the future of this country that these funds be restored. The house appropriations committee reported the bill out some months ago without the tenant-purchase program. A vigorous fight to restore it was lost, probably because it came late at night and when many members were absent.

The senate then amended the bill to provide for $50,000,000 during the next fiscal year in the important program of making farm owners out of desirable and carefully-selected tenants. This amendment was approved without a single dissenting vote.

The house now must vote. If it again refuses to provide for the program, one of the most successful of the farm program features will have been lost. It will halt the steady progress which is being made in stabilizing the small farmer on the land at a time when the problems of tenancy and farm-labor migration already are serious.

No burden would be imposed on the federal treasury for these loans as the RFC advances them and the loans are self-liquidating.

As evidence of the fact the program is working, those who had borrowed during the first year of the act, paid back their maturities at the rate of 165 per cent. Many were able to make substantial payments in advance. In addition to the fact the plan is working, the government further is guaranteed because of the first-mortgage loan on the real estate.

Action of the house in striking out this important, and successful, feature of the farm program was a distressing move and one which should be corrected.

Vidalia, Ga., Advance
April 18, 1940

Negro Farmers Are Making Splendid Progress

In spite of low farm income, low market prices, and other adverse conditions, Director Walter S. Brown, of the Agricultural Extension Service said this week that hundreds of Georgia Negro farmers have managed to make a comfortable living, own their homes, educate their children, an dbecome respectable citizens.

Here's a brief resum of farm activities of a number of successful Negro farmers, as reported by P. H. Stone, state Negro agent for the Extension service. These farmers, Stone said, have made "a go of farming."

Ben Halcomb of Baldwin county has a 500-acre farm of which he is owner. On this farm, he has built a modern home, barns and smokehouses. He uses modern tillage implements and produces enough food and feed stuff to take care of the family and livestock needs. Milk cows, chickens, hogs, and a year-round garden take care of the family needs in addition to supplying some for the markets and his neighbors.

In Bibb coun R. L. Woolfolk is another farmer who has accomplished a great deal. From his 680-acre farm he has been able to make it pay for itself. There is food in abundance to care for the family needs. His farm is properly drained, silos built, pastures in good condition where one can find livestock grazing at will. He furnishes the local markets there with vegetables the year-round from his garden. Woolfolk is certainly living at home.

William Adams, a Brooks county farmer, is the owner of a 500-acre farm. Erosion has been checked, a fine crop rotation system is practiced from year to year and he is living at home. From the road one can see any number of hogs hogging off green feed. In addition, there can be seen milk cows, feeder steers, and other livestock grazing on som of the finest pastures in that section.

Eddie Wilson, of Bulloch county has a nice farm. He took up the mortgage on his father-in-law's farm immediately after he married and now the owner of this 200-acre farm. There is an abundance of feed to take care of the family and livestock needs.

Wesley Brigham's 200-acre farm in Burke county is a model farm. Brigham is the owner of this place. He states that his year-round garden made it possible for him to become the owner of this farm.

In Crawford county is Waymond Miller who is the owner of a 320-acre farm. He has built a modern home on this place, has modern farm machinery and food in abundance to care for the family and livestock needs. He is furnishing the local markets with farm produce from his farm.

Peter Barlo, of Doughtery county has a 250-acre farm. He furnishes the meat packing plants in that section with cattle raised on his farm. He raises plenty of feed stuff to sell and saves enough to care for family needs. There is a hammer mill on his farm which crushes food for the livestock. He also furnishes this same time of service to his neighbors.

Iverson Ward, of Greene county, is an outstanding farmer in that section. He has a 300-acre farm and is doing a great job. On this farm there is a home nicely equipped, well-built barns and somkehouses, milk cows, hogs, chickens, a year-round garden, and food in abundance. Already there is plenty of green feed in the fields being hogged off.

Mach Crawford, also of Greene ounty, rented the same farm from 910 to 1937. He paid $4200 for ent during these twenty-seven years. he place rented only sold for $1300 ecently, Crawford bought 106 acres f land. During the last three years, house has been built, a well dug, nd a barn, smokehouse, out houses, nd garage built. Taxes have been aid and he owes onlyy $70 on this entire farm.

At Dublin, in Laurens county, here is Felton Beard who is the wner of a 218-acre farm. On this lace can be found improved hog ouses, self feeders, range houses for chickens, and crib bins full of feed stuff to take care of livestock needs. Soil building is practiced and he belves in a year-round garden.

W. P. Perry, of Social Circle, in Walton county, is another prosperous farmer. He has 150 acres of good land in cultivation which he purchased. Perry is a supporter of the Extension program.

FARMERS' INCOME IN IOWA HIGHEST

WASHINGTON, July 8—(AP)—Iowa farmers' gross income of $696,192,000 topped that of farmers in all other states last year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today.

The figures included cash income from marketings, cash value of products retained on the farm for consumption, and government payments.

Second in size of farmers' gross income was Texas with $646,208,000. California was third with $590,550,000 and Illinois was fourth with $576,772,000.

Figures for other states were:

Maine, $63,402,000; New Hampshire, $26,005,000; Vermont, $47,128,000; Massachusetts, $81,113,000; Rhode Island, $10,779,000; Connecticut, $58,557,000.

New York, $346,891,000; Maryland, $78,683; Virginia, $171,742,000; West Virginia, $69,566,000; North Carolina, $311,203,000; South Carolina, $148,027,000; Georgia, $218,377,000; Florida, $133,890,000.

Kentucky, $197,962,000; Tennessee, $183,336,000; Alabama, $171,111,000; Mississippi, $212,327,000; Arkansas $197,125,000; Louisiana, $161,680,000.

Gross farm income for the entire United States was estimated at $9,769,000,000 as against $9,362,000,000 in 1938.

Works on Problem



WORKING ON A permanent solution for the problems of 82 families of evicted sharecroppers who are stranded on 93 acres of poor farm land about 14 miles from Poplar Bluff, (Mo.), Nelson C. Jackson, head of the community organization department of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, from which he graduated has been loaned for a short period of time during the summer months, to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and the Home Mission's Council. Mr. Jackson, a graduate of Morehouse College, holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

King Of Cotton

NOV 11 1940

The November 1 cotton crop estimates of the Department of Agriculture indicate a probable yield of 12,847,000 bales. That is over 1,000,000 bales above actual 1939 production, and the largest output since the record-breaking crop of 1937 was grown. Though the November estimates were somewhat higher than those of October 1, the market nevertheless, took the news calmly. Indeed, on the day of the announcement, quotations of cotton futures registered net advances.

This lack of response to news which under normal conditions would have had a depressing effect upon the market activity. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics concludes that total consumption this year may be well above 8,000,000 bales. Still there would be about 4,000,000 bales left for export, and the export demand is officially estimated at much less than 2,000,000 bales.

The intensified collapse of our cotton export trade is attributed partly to the loss of markets cut off by the continental blockade and to reduced demands from Great Britain and the Far East. But, apart from the disturbances created by war, the Government's agricultural experts stress the wide price disparities between American and foreign cottons as a major deterrent to exporting. Accordingly, since American cotton prices are held at artificially high levels by the loan policy of the Government, the end of the war will not solve our problem of surplus disposal. Only a radical change in the policies that caused surpluses to accumulate long before the outbreak of the war could do that.

Inexpert meddling with the forces of demand and supply that were once the determinant of cotton prices has left us with a formidable problem on our hands. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that the 1941 world carryover of American cotton will approach or even exceed the 1939 peak of over 14,000,000 bales. And the bureau adds that "all but about 1,000,000 bales or less of the American cotton carried over is likely to be in the United States and most of it owned or held as collateral by the United States Government.' clearly indicates that the supply of cotton is no longer an important factor in determining prices. Traders are not greatly concerned about the size of the cotton crop so long as cotton that cannot be sold at or above the Government's loan level can be pledged for loans. This price-supporting loan policy has become the real determinant of prices.

Nearly 1,500,000 bales of the 1940 crop have already been stored under the loan plan. In addition, there are the huge surpluses of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which holds title to about 6,500,000 bales of cotton and had about 2,200,000 bales under loan before the 1940 crop came in. Its holdings will undoubtedly be even larger by the end of the current marketing year, in view of the inadequate outlets for the new crop. To be sure, domestic cotton consumption has gone to high levels as a result of Government buying and increased industrial

Why Negroes Left Farms

You ask why the farms have been deserted by the Negroes, and you get your answer by asking why the white men went to town. Of course, the dole precipitated the crisis; but the change had been coming gradually for many years. It really started back at the beginning of the World War, when Northern industry sought Negro labor to take the places made vacant by army enlistments; the time when Southern states had to pass laws forbidding solicitation by labor agents from other states. Georgia put such a law in her code.

But even so, the coming of labor-saving machinery would have kept the farms from being abandoned, if the smaller number of Negroes had received a little better treatment in the country. Some of them were told they were expected to feed and clothe a large family on fifty or seventy-five cents a day, and they were denied the special patches that had been allowed to slaves in a former period; many had no chance to raise a pig or a calf or a chicken. They just couldn't make a living in the country.

Some few of them received better treatment, and have bought their own lands and houses, and are doing well; but a majority of them have not been able to work themselves up.

Another compelling reason for their shift to town was lack of schooling in the country. They were not given consolidated schools and facilities for reaching them. The reason was plain. The counties wanted to save the extra expense of transportation; but it would have been worth-while for the sake of keeping the labor on the farms. A producer is worth money to any community, and but for human labor this country would still be a wilderness.

Schools have always been regarded as important, and nearly every new settlement sought to attract other people by offering educational advantages. When white men couldn't get such advantages for their children, they went to a more progressive community. And Negroes have not been unmindful of such things. Many of them are ambitious for their children, and white people have recognized for the most part the importance of encouraging that ambition. Society is affected by the lowest as well as the highest of its members, and both extremes must be reckoned with in finding the average. A good Negro is a good citizen, and given a proper showing he is likely to want to be both educated and good.

Some worth-while Negroes are yet living in the country, and are trying to stay there. They know it is the best place in the world for them if they can only get a living. The complaint that the federal government has ruined so many of them that the labor problem is to remain with us always is hardly justified except in a limited number of instances. The Negroes have always been valuable laborers in this country. They have their faults, but who hasn't? They have proven through many generations that they can be made the best kind of friends for the white men.

Those Negroes in distress in the towns and cities could cultivate all of the unused farms in the state. If they don't go back to the farms, who is going? And what is keeping them from going? The prevailing wage. But the farmers say they can't pay more, and can't do any better part by labor. Well, that is what is stopping the plows, and sending the Negroes to even a harder life in town.

Who can solve the problem?

Not the Negro.

The Guest Writer

Cotton Freight Rates

(From The Dallas Morning News)

Reduction in freight rates on cotton, granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission to growers and shippers in the Gulf Southwest, was another step toward an equalization that ought to have been made years ago. Cotton growers and shippers and the carriers themselves are given credit for the reduction which will mean a saving of $1,000,000 to Texas farmers, according to the Washington dispatches. Immediately, they did effect this reduction, but over the long pull the credit goes to the truck lines and the inland waterways.

There was a time when it cost about $4.80 to ship a bale of cotton from North Texas to the Gulf ports. By any common sense appraisal of freight costs, this was entirely too much. But the freight rate structure was an immensely complicated thing and the farmers who were paying the bill were not in position to hire the legal talent that could fight a successful battle for them before the rate-making bodies. Then came the trucks and, even under the very low load limit maintained in Texas, began to take the business away from the railroads. As a result, rates, including this last reduction, have been reduced almost 50 per cent. While the truck competition was the primary force, inland water rates were a material aid. Testimony at the recent Washington hearing showed that Mississippi Valley farmers ship cotton at $2 a bale less than Texas farmers can ship.

It is not difficult to see that, if there had been a Wheeler-Lea Law in operation all the time, this saving could never have been effected for the farmers. Of course, it is not beyond the pale of possibility for an over-all regulatory body to equalize rates in such a way that reductions like this would be effected, but anyone with practical knowledge of the line of precedents upon which the rate structure of the country has been built knows that most of the decisions of such an omnibus regulatory body would be in favor of the railroads. The theory that some lines of industry and commerce are "natural monopolies" is soundly based, but it has been overdone. A little open competition can still bring justice to producer and consumer, as evidenced in the reduction of cotton freight rates in the Gulf Southwest during the last 15 years.

CUBAN RICE IS SEEN AS THREAT TO SOUTH

Island's Increase May Hurt Growers Here

WASHINGTON, May 27.—(AP)—The Agriculture Department said Monday that a campaign to increase rice production in Cuba may cut the market of Southern rice growers.

Cuba now imports more than 95 per cent of its rice, half of it from the United States.

The Cuban Government distributed 370,000 pounds of rice seed among the poor farmers this Spring to encourage rice production and to supply work during the "dead season" following the sugar cane harvest.

The department said the Cuban Government soon may initiate experimental work on principal rice-growing farms. Large tracts of suitable land, lying fallow in every province are reported available for rice growing, but many large areas need drainage, irigation or terracing.

Cotton Sale Regulations Almost Same

AAA Announces Slight Changes Under The Quota System

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, May 23.—The Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced today that the regulations governing the sale of this year's cotton crop under the marketing quota system would be virtually the same as those in effect during the past two years.

Quotas were approved by producers in a national referendum last Fall.

Under the regulations the marketing quota for each farm will be the normal or actual production on the farm's AAA allotted acreage, whichever is greater, plus the amount of any old cotton which was saleable under quotas in 1938 and 1939.

Sales of cotton in excess of quotas will be subject to a penalty of three cents a pound on 1939 and 1940 cotton and two cents a pound on any over-quota 1938 cotton which might be offered for sale.

The regulations provide for the identification of cotton by the use of white, red or blue marketing cards.

Producers who planted within their 1940 acreage allotments and who do not have on hand any carry-over penalty cotton, will receive white marketing cards and may sell all of their cotton without penalty.

Producers who overplanted their 1940 cotton allotments or who have on hand carry-over penalty cotton from their 1939 crop, will receive red cards. Producers who have carry-over penalty cotton from their 1938 crop will receive both red and blue cards, regardless of their 1939 and 1940 plantings.

Buyers are liable for collection of penalties under the marketing quota regulations. Quotas do not apply to cotton having a staple length of 1 1-2 inches or longer, and the regulations provide a means of identifying such cotton as being penalty-free.

Tenancy Now National Issue

Tenancy and migratory farm workers were the subjects of articles in consecutive issues of The Commercial Appeal on Sunday and Monday, and we commend the two read in conjunction to every responsible citizen of these parts.

Discussion number one was written by Thomas C. Fuller of our own staff in analysis of a report made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. The second came from the United Press to suggest moves planned in Congress and the Department of Agriculture to combat the conditions in question. Highlights of the two reveal a state of affairs that can no longer be left to the old philosophy of laissez faire, or "let 'er slide."

With more people living on the farms than ever in our history, some 3,000,000 farm families are tenants, which is to say that tenants are more numerous than ever. Every state has its share of tenancy, taking in some families with less than $250 cash income yearly. The concentration is in the Appalachian Highlands, the Eastern Cotton Belt, the MidSouth and the Southwest. In this area tenancy ranges from 37 per cent to above 50 per cent.

In addition to tenants, whose economic status is generally by no means satisfactory, there are perhaps 300,000 families, numbering about 1,000,000 persons, who drift about seeking seasonal employment and living as a rule on deeply substandard levels. California and Florida first occur to mind in this connection, but the problem affects many other states even to fluctuating groups inside certain states.

While studies of drouth in particular among other causes reveal their effect on both tenancy and migration, the more significant fact is that now only a few more than half the families on the farm have an equity in the land they work, whereas 60 years ago four out of five either owned or were buying their farms.

Remedies proposed involve insured loans, by private or governmental agencies, with reduced rates of interest, so that the farmer may be held on the land with a stake worth his while. Accomplishment of that result would help stop the treks in search of seasonal employment.

For the near future, the proposals involve adequate relief for the migrants, plus recognition of drouth, floods and other unavoidable scourges as national calamities which are therefore fit subject for action by Congress rather than due only remedial action by states or sections.

These matters are of unusual importance to the South for the simple reason that it has long had a high birth rate and has for decades sent its surplus population faring abroad. There are no more Cherokee Strips, no more new states like Texas, and no more free lands such as sent the Forty-Niners questing across a continent. Nor does a trend toward the cities answer the need. Unquestionably the South will be obliged to take care of more and more people within its own boundaries. Satisfactory use of the land appears the only hope worth mentioning, as far as the masses of people are concerned.

The Commercial Appeal's concern about these problems is neither academic nor sudden. For many years this newspaper has urged the necessity of fighting these evils, in our case closely woven with the one-crop policy of farming. Nearly seven years ago we inaugurated the Plant To Prosper Competition as our effort to make a tangible contribution to the cause, and results in the MidSouth have demonstrated that progress can be made by the co-ordination and co-operation of agencies available in every community.

The encouraging sign is in the apparent growth of consciousness that tenancy and its attendant evils of many sorts make up a national issue, a matter that contains social and political as well as economic liabilities for the entire country rather than any one section merely.

It is even more gratifying that charity and relief are regarded in the plans of reform only as temporary expedients to bridge gaps while the emphasis is laid on creating conditions in which people can help themselves.

The reports and plans we mention are not final nor do they contain all wisdom, but they do represent realization of difficulties and a disposition to deal with them. That is a challenge to action we cannot afford to ignore.

DID YOU KNOW?

—that 4,500,000 Negroes are living on farms in 13 Southern States?

—that Negro farmers constitute 12.6 percent of all American farm operators?

—that 50,000 rehabilitation loans have been made to Negro farmers in the last four years?

—that 987 loans were made to Negro farm tenants in the first two years the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act was in operation?

—that 427 Negro families were farming on 10 rental cooperatives in January, 1940?

—that more than 1,800 Negro families are living today on farm homestead projects?

—that more than 500 Negro county agents are serving farmers in the field?

Little Change in Plantation System, WPA Pamphlet Reveals

Outwardly, the old plantations that flourished for 150 years from Virginia to Texas have changed. The general characteristics, however, have remained the same.

There is still large-scale ownership of the land and of the tools of production. Plentiful and cheap labor forces continue, with white farm tenant and laborer families in the southeast now exceeding Negro families similarly employed. Sharecropping keeps alive many of the evils of the old plantation economy.

These are some of the highlights of "The Plantation South Today," a pamphlet just issued by the division of research of the Federal Work Projects Administration.

Written by T. J. Woofter, Jr., and A. E. Fisher, this publication is the fifth in a series designed to present simple, factual information on social problems of general interest.

"The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy," by Dr. Charles E. Johnson, of Fisk University, with Doctors Edwin R. Embree and W. W. Alexander, is listed among eleven other books making up the bibliography of "The Plantation South Today."

Highly Concentrated

"In true plantation areas land ownership is highly concentrated," the WPA social problems pamphlet says; "and the proportion of tenants among farm operators is high. Incomes in such areas are greater per capita than in other southern agricultural counties, but lower than in other farming sections of the Nation.

"There are comparatively few urban and village dwellers and few non-agricultural industries. Families are large but schools are relatively small and poor, especially for Negroes. Health services are markedly deficient. Living standards are near the minimum level."

Problems of relief and rehabilitation have seriously effected the rural South, particularly in the cotton belts. Large families among tenants have been considered advantageous by the plantation landlords chiefly because the younger members constitute a cheap labor supply.

During the 1920-1930 decade about 250,000 persons composing the excess labor supply migrated each year to regions where the industrial demand was expanding.

After 1930 the industrial labor market began to shrink. Migration was reduced. Meanwhile, the size of plantations dwindled. This situation restricted the demand for labor and intensified the problems of relief and rehabilitation, the latest WPA pamphlet explains.

The various types of landlord-tenant arrangements which are often confused in the public's mind are made clear in "The Plantation South Today." Renters who rent land outright from the owners are the least dependent of the plantation workers. They receive all the proceeds of their crops with the exception of a fixed rent paid in cash or crops.

Next in order of dependency are the share tenants. These workers own their work stock and tools. They must usually be provided with food, fertilizer and a house by the owner of the plantation. Share tenants cultivate a fixed size of land and receive in return a share of the crop, usually more than one-half.

"Still more dependent are the sharecroppers, who furnish the landlord nothing but their labor, and must be provided with stock, tools, fertilizer, food and a house," the WPA publication says.

"They receive half their chop in return for working a tract of about 20 crop acres, but all advances made to them for half of the operating expenses, food and other necessities are deducted, with interest, from their portion by the operator when the crop is sold.

"There are more of these sharecroppers than any other type of plantation labor. None of them have a legal claim on any improvements they make to the land or the buildings, and so they have little desire to conserve or improve them. What they do is drift from place to place, looking for better conditions somewhere else but usually finding that they are much the same or worse."

"At the bottom of the agricultural ladder are the wage hands, who are hired for a fixed wage, and the casual laborers, who are hired at peak seasons by the day."

Exhaust Resources

"Even when croppers and share tenants clear anything on the year's farming, they usually exhaust their resources within a few months and are destitute again at the beginning of the crop year. The landlord has to advance them credit to finance the new crop and to provide for their living expenses until the crop is sold. The average tenant in 1937 was advanced $85 for his share of crop expenses and $104 to live on while the crop was maturing. Thus the average tenant borrowed around $200," the study continues.

As early as 1934, the WPA made an exhaustive study of labor conditions in plantation regions of the South. This study was concluded with a series of recommendations.

people. We believe that our people are tired of the relief economy into which the New Deal has plunged them and prefer jobs in free industry under Wendell L. Willkie to relief and an uncertain future under the New Deal."

PLANTATIONS BLAMED FOR PLIGHT OF SOUTH

L. S. U. Sociologist Says Farms Should Be Smaller

FSA OFFICIALS CONVENE

D. Lynn Smith Sees Need For More Permanent Tenure System Than One-Year Leases Now Customary

By ED H. THOMAS

From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTL EROCK, April 8.—Blaming the plantation system for the South's current economic problems Dr. Lynn Smith of the L. S. U. Rural Sociology Department, told an Farm Security Administration regional conference here Monday that the solution lay in encouragement of family-size farms, either owner-operated or rented under a more permanent tenure system system than the one-year leases customary now.

FSA state and district officials from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi opened a two-day meeting Monday.

Labor's Position Precarious

Dr. Smith pointed out that farm labor in the South was not generally worse off than in other parts of the country, and that all permanent farm labor is in a precarious position. Unless related to the landlord, or in some other way having a foothold on the agricultural ladder, farm labor occupies the lowest position in the social scale. Whether they are paid cash wages, or a share of the crop, such labor can not effectively change its position, he declared. The difficulty lies in the South having such a high proportion of its farm people in such a position.

He praised the work of the Farm Security Administration, for encouraging the buying of family-sized farms, under the Bankhead-Jones Act, and for helping the formation of land-leasing co-operatives which provide security of tenure for a number of years.

Heredity Discounted

Dr. Smith discounted heredity as the major factor for the lack of success of many Southern farmers. He stated that he was convinced that environment dominated, and that the FSA, the extension service and other agencies, by broadening opportunity, could develop people.

Dr. W. H. Metzler of the University of Arkansas, praised the FSA program for placing those it was assisting on a sound farming basis, and helping them build up their assets. He reported that he had personally called on 225 FSA clients in Arkansas, and found that 70 per cent of them had shown marked progress since receiving FSA assistance.

Reid Speaks

Speaking on the morning program, T. Roy Reid, regional director, urged the officials to see that the rehabilitation program of the FSA reaches lower economic classes each year, and that those who need guidance most be given maximum assistance.

Mrs. Clara V. Thompson of Washington, chief of the home management section, stressed the necessity of placing emphasis on the non-cash income of farm families, such as production of food and feed.

Paul V. Maris of Washington, chief of the FSA's tenant purchase division, stressed the necessity of careful planning of farming operations.

R. W. Hudgens of Washington, FSA assistant administrator, spoke at a dinner Monday night, and the session Tuesday will feature talks by officials of the FSA and other agricultural agencies.

Rural Housing Program Outlined By Officials

LITTLE ROCK, April 8.—The rural housing program of the United States Housing Authority was outlined to members of the state extension staff of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture Monday by H. K. Thatcher, chairman of the state Rural Housing Committee and Brooks Hays, legal adviser for the committee. They spoke at the first of a series of weekly conferences to study programs of other state and Government agencies.

Arkansas is one of only nine states whose legislatures have passed acts enabling them to participate in the rural housing program, Mr. Thatcher said. The rural housing program is being initiated in one county in each of the nine states, Lonoke being the county in Arkansas selected for this purpose.

Ross Mauney, extension economist in farm management, reported that the preliminary planning procedure—including an inventory of the county's resources, and general recommendations for solving the problems—had been completed in nine counties—Howard, Yell, Pope, Jefferson, Randolph, Arkansas, St. Francis, Drew and Craighead. In four other counties—Hempstead, Woodruff, Washington and Marion, the preliminary program is nearing completion, and planning in nine other counties—Independence, Clark, Dallas, Sebastian, Chicot, Lawrence, Ouachita, Pulaski and Greene—will begin immediately.

'GOOD PROVIDER' BOOKS GOING OUT TO 1800 FARMERS

Agricultural Leader Lists What Constitutes Improvements

As nearly 1800 farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi stood ready to begin their quest of over $1000 in prizes in the Good Provider Competition for 1940, B. B. Jones, agricultural secretary of the Association of Commerce, Saturday outlined what constitutes "improvements" under various headings of the contest.

Record books in which farmers will keep tab on their progress from time of their receipt through November 15 are being sent to county agents and may be procured from them the latter part of this week.

The Good Provider contest is being sponsored by The Times-Picayune and the Association of Commerce, with the cooperation of extension services of Louisiana and Mississippi. Prizes will be awarded in both states for improvements to the farm, the farm home and the farm life.

Gives Instructions

Mr. Jones' instructions on keeping record books follow:

"Record books for enrollees in the Good Provider Competition will be sent out this week and farmers will start the record which will determine how they will place in the competition at the time the prizes are awarded.

"The record is divided into four divisions. The first has to do with the improvement that is made during the year in the appearance of the farm house and yard. The record calls for the improvement of the exterior of the house through the putting of the foundation, roof and chimney in good repairs, having the windows properly screened, steps and porches in good condition and the walls stained and painted.

"The housewife will be called on to make the record relative to conveniences in the house and the things that should be done to have the house properly furnished and the kitchen well equipped for good housekeeping. Adequate living space for all members of the family is needed and living and bedroom equipment should be adequate for the family needs. The yard will be checked to determine if the fences, gardens walks and driveways are in good condition, the lawns well planted and flowers and shrubbery sufficient for family use.

"The second division of the competition will center around the production of a sufficient supply of food for the needs of the farm family. The farms will be checked to determine if there is an adequate vegetable garden, fruit supply, meat and egg supply, and milk and milk products are in sufficient quantities for the family use. The farm pantry will be checked to determine if it has a proper supply of vegetables, fruits, juices and conserved sweets sufficient for the family dietary requirements.

Third Essential

"The third important part of the record is the organization and management of the farm. Here the farmer will indicate whether he has a good crop system, has the proper work stock, takes care of his soil fertility, keeps his live stock well managed and fed and has his farm buildings and machinery in good condition.

"The final division of the competition will be to check the participation of the farm family in citizenship activities. Farmers should be good neighbors, should take an interest in good government, should participate in the religious and social activities of their farm community and should work in those various organizations which are working for the improvement of the American farm and farm home.

"This competition does not require an exhaustive financial record as in the case of similar competitions carried on in other sections of the country. Farmers need only to keep a check record of conditions on the farm and in the farm home at the beginning of the record date, which is May 5 and another check at the close of the record on November 15. The judges will award the prizes on the basis of the most progress that has been made in all of the divisions of the competition during the record period.

"The arrangement of the record book was supervised by H. C. Sanders, state agent, and Miss Ellen LeNoir, state home demonstration agent of the agricultural extension service in Baton Rouge, and F. J. Hurst, agricultural editor, and Miss May Cresswell, state home demonstration leader, of the Mississippi agricultural extension service."

DESCRIBE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SOUTHERN FARMER

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — Many Negro farmers find it almost impossible to get information from county AAA committeemen in the South and are victims of rank discrimination, a senate agriculture subcommittee heard Friday, from spokesmen for the Southern Tenant Farmers union.

F. A. Betton, of Cotton Plant Ark., union vice-president, gave most of the testimony on discrimination. J. R. Butler, white, Memphis, union president, also spoke of the plight of the Negro farmer in detailing conditions among tenant farmers in general.

"It's an insult for the people of my race to ask any questions," Betton said. "The Negro is very much discrimnated against, and in some places he can't even ask his landlord about the AAA law. The landlord says, 'Bill, go back to the field and get to work, and off he goes.'"

When Sen. Wiley of Wisconsin, asked if the Negroes could read, Betton replied: "A great many of them can, but they can't understand why they read and sign things without knowing what it's all about."

Butler said there was some discrimination against white tenants but it was more acute where Negroes were concerned. One, George Marberry of near Macon, Miss., was mobbed because he questioned a county committeeman about the farm law.

The union went on record as demanding that the federal farm program be revised so as to return thousands of migrant farm laborers to the land. It also proposed restriction of farm benefit payments to any one landowner to $5,000 and requirement that employers of farm labor pay a minimum of 25 cents an hour in order to qualify for the federal subsidies.

No Nearer Solution

By Roger W. Babson

Farm Problem—Seven Years Later

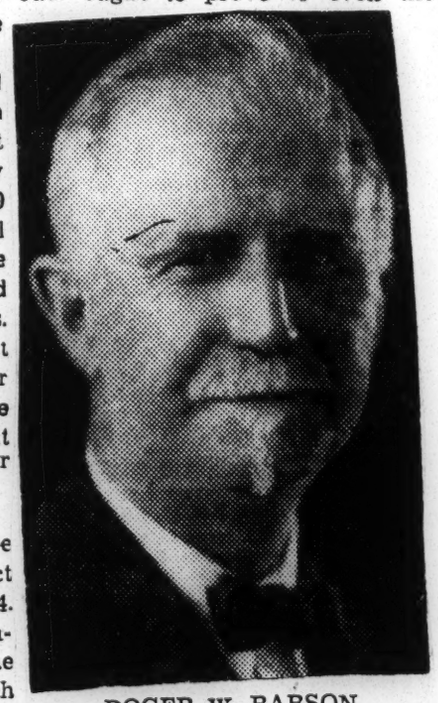
NOWHERE but in the running of a country could a management spend $3,000,000,000, accomplish nothing, and get away with it! Yet, the New Deal still has the edge in the great farm problem is as unsolved today as in 1934 solve it. Nub of the farm dilemma receives for the products he sells and what he pays for the goods he buys. This gap is still nearly as wide as it was six years ago.

I doubt if many voters realize the number of different Government schemes to help the farmers and how much these plans cost. There are crop subsidies, cheap mortgages, seed loans, storage aid, soil conservation, parity payments in a score of different forms. Before it adjourns, Congress will probably appropriate for farm aid $200,000,000 more than the President's liberal recommendations. This will wipe out the savings painfully pared from ten other appropriation bills. It is estimated that the total cost of farm aid for 1940-41 will be over $1,000,000,000—more than the entire amount the Federal Government spent for all purposes in any year up to the World War.

THREE BILLION dollars have been ladled out to farmers in direct Government payments since 1934. Yet their unhappy plight is still unsolved. The war has boosted the price of a few farm products such as corn and wheat. On the whole, however, farm products on the average are not much firmer today than they were in 1934 when the AAA got under way. While the expenses of the Department of Agriculture for the coming year may set a new all-time record, the seven-year attempt to "purchase" farm prosperity has been a dismal failure!

Because of the unbridled spending, there must be some fancy juggling of figures in Washington this year. Otherwise the Treasury's bills will exceed the Federal debt limit of $45,000,000,000. Either this debt limit must be marked up or taxes must be boosted; although this year the Government may take a short cut by using the paper profits made by certain departments. Continuing these huge agricultural outlays only hastens the day when Congress must boost taxes for both farm and factory. And higher taxes will raise further the prices of city-made goods which the farmer says he already cannot afford to buy.

SEVEN YEARS of fruitless handouts ought to prove to even the



ROGER W. BABSON

hardest-to-convince that farm prosperity cannot be legislated or bought. However, one does not have to look far to find the reason for Congress' great concern for the farmers again this year. Certain farm groups are well organiezd and speak for big blocs of voters. The politicians have their big feet planted solidly in the farm problem and it will be no easy task to yank them out. Handouts and subsidies will bulk large in "farm economics" for years to come. Government checks will continue to be stuffed into R. F. D. mail boxes.

There is nothing unusual in the procedure. I am not blaming the farmers. Other groups are "getting theirs." Why should the farmers be shy at "handout time?" But the farm problem will never be solved by subsidies, benefits, relief. It will only go from bad to worse until nature's laws of rewards and punishments are allowed again to function freely. Perhaps if farmers should organize into strong unions and force their prices up artificially just as labor has done, it might bring both the unions and the politicians to their senses.

BASICALLY, however, the answer lies in finding new industrial uses for farm products; but this solution is too far off, too intangible to satisfy the politicians. Consequently, billions more will be spent in trying to buy farm prosperity (and incidentally the farm vote). Again I say that only in a Government could a management spend $3,000,000,000 and, without showing any results, get away with it! Or can they? November 5 will tell the story. It will be a vital story, too, because the election of 1940 will be the most significant since 1860!

So much for farm politics; but let me add another word. As I traveled during the past week through our great Central West, I wondered whether any of us should complain. Conditions at their worst in America are better than in any other country in the world. And of this I know because I have visited most of them. As I saw the sun rise over the great fertile plains of Illinois, blessed with an abundance of seed, rain and freedom, I said a prayer of thankfulness and resolved — whatever might come to us—I shall never complain!

Losses at the Gin

More warning has been given to cotton growers about careless ginning during the past few months than ever before, and certainly this will mean the saving of money for the man who grows the staple. The gin may add to or take from the market price. Cut staple will not yield as good price as staple that is properly ginned.

Time was when any kind of gin was believed to be satisfactory. No thought was given to the lint left on the seed or to the condition of the ginned output. Wet or dry made no difference to the grower. He was often foolish enough to think if he could get the ginner to accept his wet staple, the moisture added weight and brought more money.

Such a thing as choosing a gin that had a good reputation among buyers never entered the heads of the growers. Gins for the public dotted almost every hillside. One community might have a dozen public ginneries, and the cheapest price for the bale ginned and packed got the business.

But that day has passed. Manufacturers warn their buyers against buying the product of defective gins or careless ginners. The same staple properly ginned brings sometimes as much as two cents a pound more than if it is ginned in the wrong way.

Cotton grown on badly eroded land, unfertilized and poorly worked is also falling into disrepute. Buyers can test it as soon as they see a sample. Poor cotton makes poor cloth, and poor land makes poor cotton, and poor cotton makes a poor man.

In the language of Benjamin Franklin more than a century and a half ago. "Since the achievement of our independence, the best patriot is he who fills up the most gullies."

Certainly, if the grower goes to the trouble to buy the best seeds and feeds his cotton the best plant food, so he will produce the best type of lint, he will not want to carry his cotton to a low-grade gin, unless he is like that fellow who asked Cape Holmes at Culloden not to pay him 10 1-2 cents per pound for the bale of cotton; because he never could work fractions, so he preferred ten cents even money.

Negro Farmer is Real Victim Of New Deal Crackpot Schemes

Doomed to Exist on Thirty Cents a Day as Most Workers Shift from Farm to Day Labor

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

Truly "the forgotten man" of this era of New Dealism, "ill-fed, ill-clad, and ill-housed," is the Negro farmer, the majority of whom reside in the South. They have no vote. They are disfranchised. They do not come within the political programs of the New Deal. They are not organized They are not a pressure group. They have suffered grievously during these past seven years of agricultural experimentation.

In contemplating New Deal votes they are not taken into account. New Dealers feel they can be done without. Unlike their brethren in the Northern and Western states they can wreak no reprisals for neglect and broken promises. Their lot is tragic.

Hand-to-Mouth Existence

Karl Steinbeck, in a diagnosis of the ills of the Southern farmer, Negro and White, calls attention to the fact that, under the "plowing under" edict, thousands of Negro as well as white farmers have lived a hand to mouth existence because the compensation they were to receive for land taken out of cultivation was consumed by avaricious, brow-beating landlords.

The situation developed into a mathematical problem in economics — reduction in acreage — reduction in work — destitution.

Statistics show that 90.7 per cent of Negro farmers are in eleven Southern States. The government appropriated $227,000,000 for rental and benefit checks under its cotton acreage reduction program alone. It has been estimated that the farmers, both white and black, received about 3 out of every 1,000 of these compensation checks. The other 997 were devoured by landlords and other birds of prey through a multitude of fraudulent subterfuges.

Calls Agency a Farce

Farm relief under the guise of "subsistence farms," he says, as operated through the Government's Resettlement Administration, is a farce. Negro and white farmers are expected to live on thirty cents a day, yet are denied by the Social Security Act any right to old age pensions, unemployment benefits, or any other form of social insurance.

Instead, farm jobs are provided which pay the magnificent sum of $19 to $21 a month, or 12 to 15 cents an hour. Is this a reassuring picture to the Southern farmer — particularly the Negro farmer — even if he were allowed to vote?

This situation is so desperate that, when the Second Conference on the Problems of the Negro met here in Washington, it devoted much of its time to a survey of the facts, and a discussion of the sorry plight of the neglected Negro farmer, who is in fact and truth "the man farthest down," and forgotten.

The conference declared that a democratic administration of the provisions of the Bankhead Act would indicate the equitable inclusion of all elements of the population in the benefits accruing from and the carrying out of the provisions of the fact. In many States and counties in the South, it reported, the percentage of Negroes in the total farm population, as well as in the farm-tenant population, unquestionably warrants the inclusion of Negroes in the membership of State and County-Farm-Tenant Committees, the conference insisted.

Negroes Excluded

By the same token, it said, there should be inclusion of Negroes on local Acerage Allotment Committees of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, or any other local committees for the administering of Federal programs where Negroes are vitally concerned.

The conference requested the Secretary of Agriculture, as representative of the Federal Government, to remedy the undemocratic practice now prevailing in which Negroes do not receive appointment on these committees, that they may protect their interests.

As a result of forces growing out of the prolonged agricultural depression and changes in the organization of many plantations (in some cases, apparently, as result of Federal legislation), the conference pointed out, there is occurring a more or less rapid shift from tenancy to day labor in many sections of the Cotton Belt.

In these areas Negroes are faced with a growing agricultural group of landless, propertyless, and often casual laborers, of which group Negroes are a majority. To a considerable extent this represents total displacement of families and unemployment.

The conference recommended that the Federal Government make careful studies of this situation with a view to providing a program for the security and protection of these people.

Legislation is Inadequate

Present studies of the landlord-tenant laws of the various Southern States show that legislation in this regard is archaic, inadequate, inconsistent and weighted heavily with protection of the landlord as opposed to the tenant. Landlord-Tenant contracts in the Southern States are of a loose, oral variety and last only for one year in most cases, with no assurance of renewal.

Laws regarding responsibility for repairs, removal of implements, freedom of cultivation and disposal of the crop, control of the person of the tenant, and in regard to landlord liens, are generally designed to protect the interests of the landlord. A few states, notably Oklahoma, Texas and North Carolina have taken some steps toward liberalizing and rationalizing their Landlord-Tenant laws, but these are all.

The conference recommended that States receiving Federal funds intended to improve tenancy conditions, be required to provide guarantees of more adequate and just Landlord-Tenant legislation within a stated period. The conference further recommended that Federal funds be withheld from States failing to meet this requirement at the end of the period indicated.

What has been done by the Federal Government to change these conditions, to rectify the unjust, unfair techniques which are doing the Negro farmer to death? Nothing, practically nothing of a substantial, constructive character. Nothing, practially nothing, to give this "man with the hoe" hope and encouragement that he may look forward to a better day.

At this time, when the New Deal is boasting that the Negro vote of the North is "in the bag," "sewed up," its own "private asset," colored citizens of the North who vote and have their votes counted, cannot overlook the tragic situation in the South which affects so many of their kith and kin who have been unable to "escape" the oppressive conditions of Southern farm tenancy and share-cropper oppression and tyranny.

Senate Near Decision On Farm Funds

President Is For Parity, Bankhead Says; Byrd Sees Finance Trouble

Other Issues Loom

House Committee Votes For 5-Man Labor Board, But New Count Is Asked

WASHINGTON, March 19.—(AP)—Senator Byrd (D), Virginia, cautioned the Senate against greatly increased appropriations today, lest the Treasury's supply of cash be reduced to an imprudent level, or it become necessary to increase the legal limit on the national debt.

He spoke as the Senate slowly approached the session's first important test on the economy issue, with a bill pending to appropriate $922,864,668 for the Agriculture Department and farm benefit payments. The amount was more than $200,000,000 greater than the sum voted by the House and President Roosevelt's budget estimates.

Late this afternoon the chamber recessed without reaching a vote on the measure.

Administration leaders, including Senator Barkley (D), Kentucky, and Byrnes (D), North Carolina, had contended that the increase could be safely taken from the $1,600,000,000 of cash now in the Treasury's working balance. Byrd called their attention to other factors involved.

He said that to avoid an increase in the debt limit, the budget submitted in January by President Roosevelt involved reducing that balance to $500,000,000 as part of the government's regular fiscal plans for the year beginning next July. And he taxed Barkley and Byrnes with statements made in the debate that a balance of at least $1,000,000,000 should be maintained at all times, for safety's sake.

Chairman Bankhead (D), Alabama, of the agriculture committee, urged the Senate to approve a $212,000,000 item in the bill to make parity payments to farmers. (Parity payments are intended to bridge some of the difference between the current price received by the farmer and the price which would give him the purchasing power he enjoyed in 1909-14.)

President Roosevelt, Bankhead said was not opposed to parity payments He pointed out that the chief executive said in his budget message that while it made no provision for such payments, they might became necessary unless farm prices advanced.

"The President, among others," Bankhead continued, "apparently thought that the war in Europe might raise farm prices to the point where parity payments would not be needed."

Price levels had not gone up, however, he said, and the money should be made available for use, if needed

Senator Mead (D), New York, urged approval of an amendment by Senator LaFollette (Prog.), Wisconsin which would increase the appropriation for the food stamp plan from $85,000,000 to $113,000,000.

Two senators, Hill (D), Alabama and Chavez (D), New Mexico, saw a connection between national defense and appropriations to assist tenant farmers in acquiring farms.

"People will fight for a home when they won't fight for anything else," Chavez asserted. Hill attributed Finland's resistance to Russia to the fact that 90 per cent of the Finns are home owners.

Other developments:

By an overwhelming vote of 14 to 3 the House labor committee proposed today to add two new members to the

three-man National Labor Relations Board and by a margin of one vote rejected proposals to abolish the present board.

Ironically, it was the proxy vote of Representative Hoffman (R), Michigan—one of the board's severest critics—that resulted in a 9 to 8 defeat for a motion to remove the three board members, Chairman J. Warren Madden, Edwin S. Smith and William M. Leiserson, and create a new, five-man board.

Hoffman, called away from the city gave his proxy to Representative Smith (R), Maine, who surprised the committee by recording Hoffman as against the motion. The Michigan Congressman sent word to his office that he would ask the committee to reconsider its vote at a meeting tomorrow when he will be present.

Representatives of the magarine and cottonseed industries contended before the monopoly committee today that multiple state restricitons and taxes on the sale of margarine constituted a major barrier to interstate trade and an economic burden on large consumer and producing groups.

John Moloney, representing cotton producing groups and the National Cottonseed Products Association, and C. H. Janssen, president of the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers, asserted that taxation of margarine and other restrictions on its sale served no purpose except to handicap one food product for the benefit of another.

Secretary Morgenthau opposed a move to terminate the purchase of foreign silver while Senator Tobey (R) New Hampshire, charged that the administration was trying to block a monetary investigation.

Charging "gag rule," Senator Tobey also demanded early Senate consideration of his resolution opposing census questions about personal income.

NEGRO FARMERS TO BENEFIT IN RURAL HOUSING PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The low-income farmer was placed on terms of housing equality with his city brother last Tuesday, when President Roosevelt expanded the national slum-clarance and low-rent housing program to include strictly rural areas.

The president approved a rehousing of the United State Housing Authority, designed to provide modern sanitary homes at low rentals for farm families of low income, including tenants, owner-operators, sharecroppers and rural wage earners.

These rural housing projects will be located as follows: Lonoke County, Ark; Thomas County, Ga.; Alexander County, Ill.; Vigo County Ind.; Lee County, Miss.; and Darlington County, S. C.

In discussing the background and development of these six rural projects, USHA Administrator Nathan Straus said:

"These projects prove beyond three main points: That decent, safe and sanitary housing can be developed under the USHA program for families in the lowest income group in rural areas; that this housing can be developed so economically, without sacrificing essential standards, that it will quicken the progress of the USHA program in the direction of lower building costs and lower annual contributions to reduce rents; and that the slum clearance and low-rent housing program is not only needed, but is wanted and appreciated and understood in rural areas.

"In the above respects the rural program has features of similarity to the urban program. In two other respects it is quite different.

"The urban program is devoted to the development of rental housing because most people in concentrated centers of population are accustomed to rent the homes in which they live. The rural housing program should be directed toward the gradual creation of home owners, able to own decent home without excessive strain upon their slender financial resources. Under the present law, only rental occupancy is possible. But under a suggested amendment to the law now pending, the gradual acquisition of the homes by the families who live in them will be made feasible.

"A second difference between the urban program and the rural program is that the rural program requires and is receiving the cooperaion of the Department of Agriculture, because the improvement of living conditions on the farm is inseparably connected with the improvement of working conditions and income conditions on the farm. With perfecting legislation, the Department of Agriculture and the USHA would be able to work together even more closely and even more successfully toward expanding the rural program from its present experimental beginnings."

U. S. AGRICULTURE FACED BY CRITICAL SITUATION

BY EDWARD A. O'NEAL
President, American Farm Bureau Federation

Agriculture faces a critical situation. This industry which produces in abundance and where there are no bottlenecks has become the first major casualty of the war. As the new crop season approaches, it is imperative that the position of agriculture be fully and clearly recognized.

Half of our cotton, more than a third of our tobacco and from 10 to 25 per cent of our wheat, rice, lard, dried and canned fruit have normally gone into export.

During this coming crop year, nearly all of these surpluses will be thrown back on the domestic market. The benefit payments available for these crops are not sufficient to prevent distress among producers.

A sympathetic Congress and administration have provided the farmers of the country with the machinery for dealing with this situation. We are not helpless. There is no reason why there should be widespread distress and discontent this Autumn. But prompt action is imperative if we are to protect the farmers' prices and income while the bulk of their products move to market.

Farmers are alive to the urgency of this situation; they recognize that the same procedures and standards that have governed our agricultural programs in normal times will not suffice to meet this emergency. They have grave fears that the routine established over the last seven years may not be adjusted to meet the present situation. For example, there has been substantial merit in past years in the argument that loans on basic commodities should be low so that the normal flow of commodities into export will not be hampered. We have supported this position. This argument has no merit in a year when the great proportion of our export trade has been cut off.

It has no merit when the loan rate is the only hope of the farmer that there will be a floor under his prices. Stocks will accumulate this year, to be sure. But every other country in the world would look upon such stocks as a source of strength and security. We firmly believe that our inventories of food and fiber should be regarded as a source of strength to this country.

Within the next few months, we have grave fears that ill-advised individuals will use agricultural distress as an argument for an appeasement policy—as an argument for "deals" with those who would destroy us. There will be no basis for such a policy if domestic prices are favorable and our domestic position is sound. Finally, we draw attention to the need for a strong internal economic position if we are to cooperate effectively with our American neighbors in efforts to cope with our mutual surplus problems. It is important that our own position be strong if we are to mobilize full and effective national to reach ruinous levels as the result of surplus problems growing out of the European war. We ask that this statement set out clearly and frankly the positive policy of holding agriclutural prices as nearly as possible to parity levels.

That the commodity loans, which are now the only floor for agricultural prices, be set at higher levels than would normally be required. Specifically, we ask that the cotton loan be set at 65 per cent of the parity level. We recommend further that the wheat loan, which was announced before the emergency became fully apparent, be adjusted upward to the equivalent of the cotton loan. Such loans on cotton and wheat, together with the mandatory loan on corn, will bring the total returns, including benefit payments, to approximately 75 per cent of parity income for the producers of cotton, wheat and corn.

We ask that the secretary of agriculture immediately call into conference, representatives of the Federal Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and a representative of the National Defense Advisory Commission to survey agricultural surplus problems growing out of the present emergency. We ask that they formulate programs of action and determine the amounts of money which will be required to meet this emergency. For each individual commodity we urge that such programs be formulated and announced prior to the marketing season, in order that farmers may receive full benefit during the period when they market the bulk of their crops. There is always danger that relief will be too late and the benefit will accrue to handlers and speculators for whom it was never intended.

We ask that during the coming months there be an impressive demonstration of our ability to make our agricultural surpluses available to low-income and needy people in whatever amounts may be necessary to give them a completely adequate diet.

This should include as a major element the bulk purchasing of commodities in the farmer's market and their distribution to needy individuals.

In the interest of the morale of our farm people and their single-minded support of the national interest, we ask a declaration from the President of the United States that no farm prices will be allowed

TENANTS SHIFTING OFF PLANTATIONS, CONFERENCE TOLD

Machines, Day Laborers Are Declared Taking Their Place by Faulk

(The Associated Press)

Baton Rouge, La., Aug. 15.—Louisiana and the other Deep South states where the plantation system is in final disintegration may soon rival the dust bowl as a jumping off place for homeless migrants, a state public welfare department investigator said today.

Myron Falk, technical assistant in the department and executive secretary of the Louisiana Council on Migratory Labor, predicted also that the migration of aged people would become a serious problem during the next decade.

Falk was in Montgomery, Ala., to testify before the congressional committee investigating interstate migration of destitute citizens when the welfare department made public a digest of the testimony he expected to give.

To Oust Laborers

"The mechanization of Southern farms will release a considerable number of laborers," the report said. "In all probability, they will be added to the hordes of migrant agricultural workers and will soon begin to move from place to place seeking employment."

Falk estimated that two-fifths of the 1,000,000 farm laborers in the South ultimately would be on the road and that "undoubtedly many of this new crop will become applicants for public assistance."

He said plantations in the Mississippi Delta area in the past were "operated by resident owners, usually members of families who had owned the land from generation to generation. The tenants likewise remained on the land. . . . When the tenant could work no longer he was permitted to remain.

Have Absentee Owners

Today most of the plantations in the Delta are owned by absentee owners and operated as industrial plants.

Plantation superintendents are finding it profitable to discontinue tenant labor and substitute day labor.

"Many of the former tenants are not willing to remain as day laborers. Only the difficulty of saving enough money for a jallopy delays or restrains them from joining the army of migrants."

Falk pointed out that aged persons were an increasing proportion of the whole population and that social insurance was making them comparatively independent financially.

Country Boy Back From City Complicates Farm Problem

SEP 16 1940

By HARRY LEADINGHAM

ATLANTA, (AP)—The country boy who went to the city and didn't make good is causing one of Uncle Sam's worst headaches today.

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This fellow—in countless thousands — was lured to town by the fancy wages of the lush 20's, and was driven back to the farm by the tough 30's—returning not only broke but 10 years older, burdened with a family.

To him—and his younger brothers who stayed at home because of depression-trimmed labor opportunities—government officials attribute the current high percentage of farm tenancy with its low income, poor housing, depleted soil and shifting population.

Problem Difficult

How farm tenants can be effectively "tied to the soil," stopping their annual migration from farm to farm or from farmer to hired hand, is costing many a government official sleep.

C. B. Baldwin, national administrator of the Farm Security Administration, recommends leases for long periods of time between landowner and tenant which would make it worth the tenant's while to adopt improved farm practices.

In an interview here he recommended also furnishing of needed supplementary cash income to the farmer by the government in wages paid him for using his leisure time in conserving and developing his land's natural resources.

"Up until 1930 about 300,000 youth left the South each year for other sections, going principally to Detroit, Pittsburgh, Akron and other Northern industrial cities," said E. S. Morgan, regional FSA director, describing the inception of forces from which the present problem stemmed.

Trend Changes

That absorbed the birth rate, higher in the South than other sections, and prevented overpopulation on farms, he explained. But with depression these industrial jobs were cut off, not only halting emigration from the South, but also sending back thousands who had lost employment.

Without money to finance themselves, both those farm boys just coming of age and those back from no longer existing industrial jobs rented farms. This resulted in an "increased population pressure" on land as a source of living.

Under lease arrangements the tenant could generate no "feeling of interest in the land," Morgan said, and was not interested in "building up its productivity" because he knew in his mind that he was going to move that fall. So the tenant "naturally 'mined' " the soil with one crop [cotton] farming for all it was worth and then moved on to another farm.

Georgia Had One

"For example," he said, "in 1936 Georgia had more farmers who had been on the land only one year than any other state in the Union, but Alabama and other Southeastern states rank very close to Georgia in the mobility of their tenants."

Burdened with this tenure system "land and people have been going down together" to the present point of rural slums and perennially migrating families, Morgan asserted.

Attack has been made on the migration problem by the FSA from several angles. Baldwin said the agency was not sufficiently large to cope with the entire problem, as it asked only about the top half of the farmers in the lower third of the economic ladder—"10 per cent of the farmers in the country." He feels, however, that the study the agency has given the problem may serve in a larger scale approach to a solution.

Baldwin and Morgan listed these points of remedy, adding that records showed only one out of four FSA aided tenants move each year compared with the general average of one out of two.

Remedy Outlined

1—Longer and more secure tenure for the tenant.

2—Expansion of the rehabilitation program to include families still unreached.

3—To provide cash for farmers supplementing their income received seasonally from crops, the FSA proposes a rural works program.

Baldwin described it this way: "Advice and guidance in farming operations is as important as the money loaned at small interest rates," said Baldwin.

Here are some FSA case reports:

This farmer applied to FSA in 1938. "At the time he came on the program he had two cows," wrote the supervisor. "It developed after the first year that it would be well to work out his farm plan along a livestock program.

"A loan was made for $500 for the purchase of 12 grade cows and a white-faced bull. Today he has 24 cows and calves and is selling all the bull calves and keeping the heifers for breeding purposes. . . He is today buying a farm for the first time in his life."

Stock Increases

With a start of 50 cents another farmer purchased "30 setting eggs of which 26 chickens were hatched and raised 24 of them. When the chickens got to frying size he traded six fryers for one goat. He then traded the goat for a gilt from which he raised six pigs. He sold the six pigs for $10.50. He now has on hand one brood sow, six more pigs and 20 hens and 55 chickens."

Another client was on relief and had only one cow worth $150 when accepted for FSA help. The supervisor wrote of him:

"He has been advanced by FSA $2,000 in five years and at the end of the 1939 year he finished repaying his total rehabilitation loan, established an operating capital of $350 and his net worth is now over $1,500.

"He had a five-year lease on the farm which he bought under the tenant-purchase program during 1939. The whole family works and carries out a live-at-home program.

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"He had an income of $300 in 1935 and an income of $1,200 in 1939."

What Faces the Negro Farmer?



NELSON C. JACKSON

At the opening session of the Grand Lodge of the I. B. P. O. E. of W., Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniels of the Farm Security Administration, Washington, D. C., made a very interesting talk on the farm life or plight, particularly in the southern states, of the tenant farmer.

Among other things she said: "Each time that I speak to a group of Negroes anywhere I know that I am speaking to a group with close association to the soil. Many thousands of us, who now make our living in industry or the professions, come from the farm. Four and one-half millions more than one-third of all Negroes in America still get their living from the land. What is happening to Negroes who farm is pretty much what is happening to all tillers of the soil in this country, for figures, as is so often true, tell only half the story. What we find, then, in its broader outlines is not a racial situation but on economic situation common to all. In this general situation, however, the Negro farmer, as a Negro, feels the tightening of the forces militating against successful farming even more keenly than does the white farmer who is his neighbor."

The speaker here told of the hardships which the farmer had to suffer to live or exist. The cotton situation was discussed as it relates to the small farmer and the tenant farmer. Mrs. Daniel said that much could be accomplished by the thrifty farmer on a few acres instead of a large acreage which has heretofore been used. After reviewing the sitatiuon she concluded her remarks by saying: "What can be salvaged from such a situation few have the hardihood to predict. That whatever is done must center around the development, the rehabilitation, of the small farmer, Negro or white, owner or tenant, is scarcely open to question. Somewhere must be found a meeting ground between the considerations of the ledger and its economic standards of size and operation and the more imperative consideration of human needs."

FARMS GROW IN SIZE BUT NUMBER SHRINKS

OCT 6 1940

Census Shows Farm Mergers Increased In Illinois

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Oct. 5. —(UP)—McLean County, of which this city is the seat, said to be one of the richest agricultural areas in the country, suffered a loss of 157 farms in the past 10 years, due to merging of small farm units to form larger ones of greater acreage, according to the 1940 census.

Leading in the number of reductions was Randolph township, which lost 36 farming units. Bellflower township was next with 20 fewer farms than 10 years ago. Hudson township lost 17 farms; Arrowsmith 15 and Allin township 13.

Bloomington township, immediately surrounding the county seat, however, gained 16 farms, largely due to reductions in the size of individual farms around the city.

Listed as farms by the 1940 census was every land tract of three acres or more, or any tract with a net annual income of $200. This definition of the word "farm" tended to increase the number of small farms within city and town limits.

The total of all small farms found within city and village limits in the county by the census enumerators jumped from 145 in 1930 to 171 in 1940, but agricultural statisticians regarded these figures as unimportant because of the small production of these farms.

The number of farms outside city and village limits, those of agricultural importance to the county, was 3730, a net loss of 157 for the 10-year period. Only six townships showed gains and they were all near towns where ownership of small land tracts has been encouraged.

A definite back-to-the-land movement within the county, which began in the early part of the last decade, during the depression, tended to increase the number of small farms, the census shows, but this was counteracted by a trend toward larger farms during the latter years.

TRACTOR MAY DISPLACE 300,000 FARM FAMILIES

OCT 10 1940

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—(AP)—The tractor may displace as many as 300,000 Southern farm families in the next decade, a government research report said Wednesday.

This prediction was written into a 221-page volume entitled "Technology On the Farm," prepared by an interbureau committee and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

"The rate of family displacement," it said, "would undoubtedly be lower in areas other than those in which the plantation organization prevails; and in some of the rougher areas, mechanization will necessarily proceed slowly, yet it is not unreasonable to assume that within the next decade the number of tractors used in the South will nearly double, and that as a result some 300,000 families now living on farms may be displaced."

It pointed out that this estimate represented a displacement of only a little over one family for each new tractor, whereas the data for plantation areas indicated a displacement of two or more families per tractor.

"This would mean a reduction of 16 per cent in the number of tenants and croppers reported in the Southern states in 1935," it said. "Many others probably will assume the status of hired workers."

Higher Number Possible

On a later page, the report said this displacement represented an even higher number of workers, as some estimates placed the number of workers per sharecropper family at 1.5. It said 350,000, perhaps as many as 500,000 workers, probably would be displaced throughout the country in the next 10 years. Then it added, "displacement of the lower number could readily take place in the South alone, even without the adoption of the cotton picker."

Adding to this grim outlook, the researchers pointed out that during the thirties, 275 white persons in the South reached 15 years of age for every 100 over 15 who died or reached 65 years.

"In other words," it said, "for every 100 vacancies there were 275 applicants. Among the Negro population comparable figures indicate that there were 210 applicants for every 100 vacancies.

"Consequently, there must be a material migration from Southern farms or there will result a substantial increase in an area where farm population pressure is already acute."

Patents Issued

As for the mechanical cotton picker, it said more than 800 patents had been issued on such devices, but none was considered beyond the experimental stage.

"The mechanical cotton picker can be said to be on the horizon," the report added. "Any scarcity of labor for cotton production would probably hasten its adoption, even at the 1940 stage of development, and would induce greater effort to

The Outlook for Tobacco

9-26-40

COMMENTING on the recent rise in the basic duty on tobacco imports from 17s. 6d. to 19s. 6d. per lb., the Tobacco Federation of the British Empire states in "Tobacco Notes":

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer has said that he expects in a full year only £9,000,000 extra revenue from this additional tax, whereas a 2s. a lb. extra tax on 199,000,000 lb.—the 1939 U.K. consumption figure—should yield £19,000,000. The difference indicates that a heavy drop in U.K. consumption is expected. As in recent months it has become part of the Treasury technique to under-estimate the revenue return from increase tobacco tax, such a pessimistic view should not be taken about future U.K. consumption.

"None the less the 2s. a lb. extra tax on tobacco imported into the U.K. (bringing the figure to 19s. 6d., against 9s. 6d. before April, 1939) may influence the British smoker, already financially weakened by increased direct taxation, to cut his smoking down.

"On the other hand, he may smoke more to ease his troubles. Mr. D. Peel, of the Anglo-Rhodesia Tobacco Company, has a theory that munition workers will smoke more to relieve the strain, until the standard cigarettes cost up to a penny each, a figure now being approached. This figure is by no means a maximum, for in the last war, when the smaller popular-size cigarettes were five for 4½d., it was more or less an unwritten law that in a munition factory when a workman took one of his mate's cigarettes he invariably produced a penny."

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Majority Reside In South, And Are Not Included In Political Program, Says G. O. P. Figure

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The "forgotten man" of this era of New Dealism is the Negro farmer, the majority of whom reside in the South. They are ill-fed, ill-clad, and ill-housed.

They have no vote. They are disfranchised. They do not come within the political programs of the New Deal. They are not organized. They are not a pressure group. They have suffered grievously these past seven years of agricultural experimentation.

In contemplating New Deal votes they are not taken into account. New Dealers feel they can be done without. Unlike their brethren in the Northern and Western States, they can wreck no reprisals for neglect and broken promises. Their lot is tragic.

Hand-to-Mouth Existence

Karl Steinbeck, in a diagnosis of the ills of the Southern farmer, Negro and white, calls attention to the fact that, under the "plowing under" edict, thousands of Negro as well as white farmers have lived a hand-to-mouth existence because the compensation they were to receive for land taken out of cultivation was consumed by avaricious, brow-beating landlords.

Statistics show that 90.7 per cent of Negro farmers are in 11 Southern States. The government appropriated $227,000,000 for rental and benefit checks under its cotton acreage reduction program alone. It has been estimated that the farmers, both white and colored, received about three out of every 1,000 of these compensation checks. The other 997 were devoured by landlords and other birds of prey through a multitude of fraudulent subterfuges.

Farm Relief Farce

Farm relief under the guise of "subsistence farms", Steinbeck says, as operated through the Government's Resettlement Administration, is a farce. Negro and white farmers are expected to live on 30 cents a day, yet are denied by the Social Security Act any right to old age pensions, unemployment benefits, or any form of social insurance.

Instead, farm jobs are provided which pay the magnificent sum of $19 to $21 a month, or 12 to 15 cents an hour.

This situation is so desperate that when the Second National Conference on the Problems of the Negro met here in Washington, it devoted much of its time to a survey of the facts, and a discussion of the sorry plight of the neglected Negro farmer, who is in fact and truth, "the man farthest down", and forgotten.

Tenants Become Day Workers

As a result of forces growing out of the prolonged agricultural depression and changes in the organization of many plantations (in some cases, apparently, as result of Federal legislation), the Conference pointed out, there is occuring a more or less rapid shift from tenancy to day labor in many sections of the Cotton Belt. In these areas Negroes are faced with a growing agricultural group of landless, propertyless, and often casual laborers, of which group Negroes are a majority. To a considerable extent this represents total displacement of families and unemployment.

The Conference recommended that the Federal Government make careful studies of this situation with a view to providing a program for the security and protection of these people.

Landlords Favored

Present studies of the landlord-tenant laws of the various Southern States show that legislation in this regard is archaic, inadequate, inconsistent, and weighted heavily with protection of the landlord as opposed to the tenant. Landlord-Tenant contracts in the Southern States are of a loose, oral variety and last only for one year in most cases, with no assurance of renewal.

Laws regarding responsibility of repairs, removal of implements, freedom of cultivation and disposal of the crop, control of the person of the tenant, and in regard to landlord liens, are generally designed to protect the interests of the landlord. A few states, notably Oklahoma, Texas and North Carolina have taken some steps toward liberalizing and rationalizing their landlord-tenant laws, but these are all.

The Conference recommended that states receiving Federal funds intended to improve tenancy conditions, be required to provide guarantees of more adequate and just Landlord-Tenant legislation within a stated period. The Conference further recommended that Federal funds be withheld from States failing to meet this requirement at the end of the period indicated.

Situation Tragic

What has been done by the Federal Government to change these conditions, to rectify the unjust, unfair techniques which are doing the Negro farmer to death? Nothing, practically nothing of a substantial, constructive character.

At this time, when the New Deal is boasting that the Negro vote of the North is "in the bag," "sewed up" its own "private assets", colored citizens of the North, who vote and have their votes counted, cannot overlook the tragic situation in the South which affects so many of their kith and kin who have been unable to "escape" the oppressive conditions of Southern farm tenancy and sharecropper oppression and tyranny.

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"The task of fitting these negroes into our new economic structure is one that must be faced by whites and negroes together," says W. H. Metzler, assistant sociologist, University of Arkansas College of Agriculture. "White people in the South cannot prosper to any large extent unless the negro has economic opportunity, income and purchasing power so that he can play his normal part in the exchange of goods and services; the South can make no great economic headway until the economic position of the negro is improved."

Surveys made in Arkansas by the College of Agriculture show the following: In North Little Rock in 1938, oupt of 104 migrants, 13 had positions in domestic and personal service, 37 were employed at odd jobs or common labor, 39 were employed on Works Projects Administration projects, and six were receiving some type of direct relief. Only four of the entire group were engaged in personal service, skilled labor, clerical work, or business pursuits. Out of 203 migrants in Pine Bluff in 1933, 52 were unemployed, 33 were employed at odd jobs and 14 were on WPA. Of the 104 who had regular employment, practically all were engaged in domestic services.

Same Story Elsewhere

Data from other Arkansas cities tell the same story, Dr. Metzler says. The negro is competing at the lowest occupational levels rather than where opportunity is the greatest.

Even so, people in Little Rock say there is a shortage of capable persons, whether negro or white, for domestic and personal service positions. The WPA reports a shortage of skilled workers for their projects in the building trades and in clerical positions; yet, on the other hand, they have 70,000 workers that supervisors do not care to employ because they are untrained and incapable.

"There are some who would say that the negro should return to the farm, but this seems to be impossible," Dr. Metzler says. "Agriculture is becoming one of the most highly competitive of all industries, and the negro has greater possibilities in other lines of employment. The negro is by nature happy and contented and will respond to thoughtful treatment much more readily than to teachings of violence and aggression."

'Live-At-Home' Program Grows In Pemiscot

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The Portage Farms, Inc., a cooperative association of farmers in Pemiscot County, was recently granted a charter by the secretary of state for the purpose of leasing and subleasing land. The association has just executed a lease of 2650 acres of land near Wardell owned by A. B. Brinkman of Wardell. The association through its leases attains for its members security of tenure for a period of five years. This policy will eliminate the necessity of tenants having to move each year.

Long-Range Plans

Facing a five-year period of tenancy, members will be in position to make long-range farming plans heretofore impossible under the private landlord system.

The association, through its Board of Directors, will subdivide the tract and sublease to its members family size units varying from 40 to 80 acres. This will give individual tenants the opportunity of carrying out a "live-at-home" program and diversified system of farming for themselves. A similar association, Independence Farms, Inc., has previously been organized which has leased 2055 acres near Kennett, Mo., in Dunklin County.

The officers of the new association are Joe M. Taylor, president; C. H. Creasey, vice president; Van V. Adams, secretary-treasurer.

Since the association will not farm the tract of land co-operatively, but will lease individual family size farms to its members each member will obtain an individual standard rehabilitation loan for necessary teams, tools, livestock and other goods to carry out the efficient farm program, through the office of County Supervisor J. J. Richardson at Caruthersville.

Richardson To Assist

Mr. Richardson, together with his staff, will assist the association and its members in carrying out the purposes for which the association was formed and agreements with the Government. He and his staff will aid each member in working out the long time farm and home plan in order that indiivdual tenants may carry out a "live-at-home" program as is now being done with other standard rehabilitation families in this county and throughout Southeast Missouri.

Approximately 50 families will be assigned by the Farm Security Administration in connection with this association and the leasing of the land.

The program of leasing large tracts is another effort by the Farm Security Administration to assist low-income farm families to obtain reasonable security of tenure, equitable both to themselves and landowners, in order to become sisted in obtaining garden seed, and remain self-supporting.

Another expansion of the Farm Security Administration program in Southeast Missouri is the farm rehabilitation program. In each of the large cotton counties in this area there has recently been out this activity by permitting day laborers cient garden space for their needs.

Landowners are each of working jointly with the Farm Security Administration in carrying added additional personnel to work laborers to have available sufficient with landowners and day laborers

AGRICULTURE- 1940
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Tenant Purchase Reduces Tenancy

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—

The Tenant Purchase program was instituted in an effort to curtail the growing increase in tenancy and to provide worthy farm families with an opportunity to purchase a family-size farm.

Here are the answers to the questions most frequently asked about the program.

Q. Where are loans made?

A. Loans are made in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana as well as all other States in the Nation. Every county in Mississippi has been designated as a tenant-purchase county. All but five counties in Arkansas, and all but three parishes in Louisiana have tenant-purchase programs.

Q. How are the counties selected?

A. By the Secretary of Agriculture with the advice of the State Farm Security Advisory Committees. The selection is based on the farm population and the prevalence of tenancy, the availablity of good land at reasonable prices, and other pertinent factors.

Q. Who is eligible for the Tenant Purchase Loans?

A. Citizens of the United States who are farm tenants, sharecroppers, farm laborers or others who obtain or recently have obtained most of their income from farming. No loans are made to persons who can obtain an adequate loan for the purchase of a farm from other sources at reasonable terms.

Q. How should loan applications be made?

A. If you are a resident of a county selected as one in which loans are to be made, you should obtain an application blank from the rehabilitation supervisor who serves your county. Fill it out carefully and return it to him either personally or by mail. It is usually advisable to call at his office and talk the matter over with him or his assistant.

Q. How are persons who receive loans selected?

A. They are selected by a county committee of three farmers. Under the law, the committee considers the character, ability, and experience of the applicants in making the selections. The law gives preference to married persons or persons with dependent families; persons able to make a down payment; or to persons who own livestock and equipment necessary to carry on farming operations. Limited in another newspaper article that employment on the farms was at a low figure for several years. That being true, then what has become of these people, these tenants, these farm hands? They're in the towns and in the cities, good friends, making a living as best they can before moving on to another town or city, searching for the greener field that somehow turns brown when they arrive.

Yes, The Daily thanks John Bankhead for sincere service in behalf of these people who are a link in our economic chain. Yes, for a United States senator who has more time to give to these people and to this problem than he has for worrying over the intrigues and politics of Europe, or the wishes of Wall Street. John Bankhead is fighting sincerely and soundly for the farmer of Alabama, the South and the nation. How fortunate is this State in having such a son.

—Decatur Daily

Bankhead And The Tenants

This week we have had forcefully brought home to us just what it is that Senator John Hollis Bankhead is trying to accomplish in Washington in behalf of the tenant farmer.

Our interest was renewed upon reading a news item from Washington which told anew of the efforts of Senator Bankhead to help young farmers, tenant farmers to own their own farms. Of this plea for farm lands to be paid for over a period of 40 years at an interest rate of three per cent.

Then we saw the drab picture "Grapes of Wrath," from the book by the same name, a study in realism. We have seen those people, in fact we do see these people every day and we realize fully that unless there is some alleviation of suffering through which these people plod that there is not much hope of solving the problems of the South.

Then we were talking to a landowner and he spoke of having talked with another landowner whom he encouraged to get rid of worthless, trifling people and to substitute modern farming methods for his own good. These men are modern in their views, they cannot be blamed for keeping up with progress.

Combining these three incidents, we marvel at the courage of John Bankhead who is up against the problem of bringing the Congress of the United States and the more fortunate people of this nation to seeing that at the basis of most of the economic faults in the South and in all agricultural sections of the country for that matter, is the farm tenant problem.

What to do with these people who are constantly moving, constantly forced from one failure to another, constantly hoping that tomorrow will bring them something of earthly worth. These people are Americans, they have a right to live, they have a right to think, a right to work, and to education and to worship. They are as human as anyone in a more fortunate strata of life. Their problem has been growing increasingly larger, there has been very little to encourage them toward better citizenship, a better standard of living.

It is toward this problem that John Bankhead has devoted and will continue to devote much of his time, energies and brain. Is it any wonder that the farmers of Alabama, of the South, of the nation regard the senior senator from Alabama as their champion? Is it any wonder that they go and cast their votes for him in Alabama? In John Bankhead they see hope living again. In John Bankhead they know they have a representative who is not afraid to fight for them and to admit the faults of a system under which some have done well, but many have suffered.

The government of this United States will do well in our humble judgment to devote more time and more money toward permanency in relieving unemployment. Just a few days ago we

Evicted Sharecroppers Prosper Under FSA Solution Of Problem

SEP 18 1940

WASHINGTON,—(ANP)— Farm Security administration of the department of agriculture is pointing with no little pride to the accomplishments achieved in the Southeastern section of Mo., which came into the public eye some two years ago. At that time about 2,000 white and colored sharecroppers appeared on the highways declaring they had been evicted from their farms by landlords, who were supplanting them with mechanized labor.

Under the leadership of the Rev Owen Whitefield, a dynamic personality, these sharecroppers soon had the attention of the entire company.

Two thirds sof the group were colored. Today the same sharecroppers are gone from the highways and the Mississippi spillway, where they were forced by the state police after demonstration along the roadway. Shelter has been found for most of the unfortunates who took to the roads in protest in January.

Sylvester, Ga., Local
September 5, 1940

SAYS NO MORE ACREAGE CUTS

SOUTH HAS REACHED MINIMUM FOR COTTON ACREAGE, SAYS WALLACE IN ADDRESS TO NEGROES IN CHICAGO.

Henry A. Wallace, who resigned as secretary of agriculture to become the democratic vice presidential nominee, said Monday he thought the south had almost reached the minimum for its cotton acreage.

"I think the south's cotton acreage had to be reduced," he said in an address prepared for a "non-political" appearance at the American Negro Exposition in Chicago. "But we can't cut much further. If we do, we stop dieting and begin starvation.

"Already too many people are trying to make a living on southern farms and the situation has been made worse by the increasing trend toward mechanization.

"On one side, the market for cotton is contracting. On the other, fewer men are needed to raise the cotton crop. Cotton farmers are caught in a vise.

"The situation is serious, but I don't believe it all hopeless. With an ordinary amount of common sense, we can solve the cotton problem and other problems too. Our problem is simple by comparison with the problems of some other countries that lack natural resources. We have almost everything we need. Our problem is to make use of what we have."

Discussing the future of Negroes in America, he said:

"I know of no other group that needs help more than the Negro farmers in the south. With exceptions here and there, this is true of most southern farmers and in particular it is true of tenant farmers."

The Farm Bill

There is a lot of loose talk and uninformed criticism going round concerning the farm bill which the Senate has just passed by a very one-sided vote. Besides a great deal of palpable ignorance regarding the facts in the situation, some of the comments contain a note of cynicism which might better be used on some other subject.

The burden of such comment is that the Senate has upset the plans for economy by voting certain increases in the farm appropriation bill, and that these increases were made for the sake of the farm vote in an election year.

Incidentally, a sample of both the misinformation and the cynicism about the bill appears in the syndicated remarks of the humorist-commentator "Dave Boone," appearing on this page. Dave, who does better as a humorist than as a political commentator, says: "All the congressional talk and action in favor of a little economy was, as everybody should have known in an election year, just so much eyewash. The Senate has voted for a $212,000,000 subsidy to farmers, scuttling in one afternoon all the savings of months, and doing it as lightheartedly as though it was shooting the works in a slot machine." He adds, among other things, that if the House votes the same way, Congress will have put the country back on a "big-binge basis."

Similar comment in more serious form has appeared in some newspapers which should know better, or which could know better if they examined the facts more closely. The esteemed *New York Times*, for example, the other day referred to the $212,000,000 farm parity appropriation as a "handout," and said:

> It is seldom that the Senate reverses the decision of one of its major committees, and it seems altogether probable that it will vote to endorse the action of its appropriations committee in recklessly adding more than $200,000,000 to the very generous farm aid of more than $700,000,000 already voted by the House. When we compare the present favorable position of the farmer with that of past recent years when much less was spent by the federal government, and especially when we consider the critical state of the budget and of the federal debt, this $200,000,000 addition cannot be justified. The Senate action will constitute a test case regarding the sincerity of the senators who protest that they favor economy. Senators who vote for the added handout will argue, of course, that the farmers who are to get it are in desperate straits; or that economy is fine, but it is unfair to begin with the farmers; or that they will make their economies elsewhere. Everyone knows, however, that extravagance in one direction promotes extravagance in others. Everyone knows that farm aid expenditures have grown more rapidly in the last decade than any other, with the possible exception of relief, and that "parity" payments, reversing the principle of relief, give more to the big and rich farmers than to the poor and small. At the very least let us have a record vote in the Senate on the $200,000,000 committee increase, so that responsibility can be placed where it belongs.

We cite these comments because they are typical of a good many others. Now let us look at a few facts concerning the farm bill and see how unfair much of this sort of criticism is.

In the first place, these critics have entirely overlooked the fact that the farm bill, as passed by the Senate with its increased appropriations, still carries a total amount far below that provided for the current fiscal year. The Senate bill carries a total appropriation of $923,000,000, while the amount appropriated for the current fiscal year was $1,185,000,000.

In other words, the farm appropriation sought in this bill is $262,000,000 less than the last one—or a reduction of more than a quarter of a billion dollars! This is almost a 25 per cent cut in farm funds under the last appropriation.

What do they want? If every department or agency of the government had its appropriation reduced by as much as this in proportion, there would be no need for worrying about a balanced budget. Obviously, every government agency cannot be reduced by from 20 to 25 per cent, and consequently some have to be cut more deeply than others, if there is to be any retrenchment. Certainly the Department of Agriculture is taking its share of the trimming when its appropriation is reduced by $262,000,000. The trouble was, some people expected the farmers to bear the brunt of the economizing.

In the circumstances, for *The Times* to speak of objections to making a beginning on the farmers, and of "extravagance" in one direction leading to extravagance in others, is ridiculous.

The vote in the Senate for the parity payment item was 63 to 19—and, incidentally, the senators did not fail to go on record, as *The Times* wished. Let those who will regard this appropriation as a "handout"; we believe it is fairer to regard it as a meritorious effort to give a measure of economic justice—not full justice, but only partial—to American farmers. The aim is to assure them an income of 75 per cent of parity—not full parity, but only 75 per cent.

It there is debate about the desirability of parity payments, there is not likely to be much dispute over some other important items added by the Senate. One is the provision for $50,000,000 to continue the wholly commendable program to help farm tenants acquire farms of their own. The Senate directed the RFC to lend this amount for the purpose, along with a loan of $40,000,000 to the Rural Electrification Administration for the continuance of its program.

Again, the Senate added $85,000,000 to the farm bill for disposing of surplus agricultural commodities through the food stamp plan, a program which has won almost universal favor. The great merit of this appropriation is attested by the fact that not a single senator voted against it—and it was a roll-call vote. This program benefits not only farmers and relief clients, but merchants as well, and it ought to be extended.

Surely if these provisions of the Senate farm bill were so iniquitous as some critics think, they would not have been approved so overwhelmingly. Votes ranging from more than three to one up to complete unanimity are not likely to be accorded unworthy measures in the United States Senate.

'Parity John' Bankhead

Around Washington Senator John H. Bankhead has become known as "Parity John." This, according to a recent Associated Press item from the nation's capital, is the newest addition to the list of congressional nicknames—a list which includes such names as "Cactus Jack" Garner and "Cotton Ed" Smith, to mention only the two cited in the AP dispatch.

The name "Parity John" was hung on Senator Bankhead, the story goes, by his colleagues on the farm appropriations subcommittee, who have heard him plead year after year—and very successfully—for farm parity payments. The name is reported to have taken hold quickly in the Senate.

Says Senator Bankhead: "I don't object to a nickname like that."

Certainly he should not object. The nickname is a compliment to his devotion to a cause, and to his able and successful leadership in its behalf. It is a tribute to a man who is widely regarded over the nation as the foremost agricultural statesman in Congress.

John Bankhead has been responsible for more legislation of real importance to agriculture than any other man in Congress. He has been more influential than any other man in either the House or the Senate in shaping the course of the nation's agricultural policies in recent years.

So let him be known as "Parity John" Bankhead. The name fits him. For he is a man who is profoundly convinced of the farmer's right to a better share of our national wealth than he has usually had—parity, if you please—and he is, moreover, a man who year in and year out applies his efforts earnestly and persistently toward that end. He is one of the hardest-working men in the Senate, and his chief interest, agriculture, naturally receives the major part of his attention.

It was Senator Bankhead who took the leadership in putting the provision for parity payments in the pending agricultural appropriation bill, after the House had declined to do so, and after President Roosevelt had omitted this item from his budget recommendations. The president did that, as Senator Bankhead explained to the Senate, not because he was opposed to parity payments—because he is known to favor them—but because Mr. Roosevelt, like many others, thought earlier that the war in Europe would have the effect of raising farm prices and thus make such payments unnecessary this year. The war, however, has not benefited the farmers; in fact, farm exports have fallen off as a result of the war.

There was a great hue and cry that inclusion of the provision for parity payments, involving an appropriation of $212,000,000, would wreck the economy efforts that had been initiated by the House. Just why the House wanted to economize chiefly at the expense of the American farmers was not made clear. In any case, Senator Bankhead took up the fight for parity payments when the bill reached the Senate, and the final

vote on the question showed 63 votes for the provision and only 19 against. That gives you an idea about how effective Senator Bankhead's leadership on agricultural questions is among his fellow senators. Of course, not all the credit for winning the fight belongs to him; but to him certainly goes the major share.

We hope the name "Parity John" will stick in Alabama as well as in Washington. And we would like for it to mean "parity" not so much in the restricted sense of parity payments as in the broad sense of equal economic justice to American farmers, for that is Senator Bankhead's aim.

Sylvester, Ga., Local
March 14, 1940

DEPLORES PLIGHT OF TENANT CLASS

Secretary Wallace declared recently that no foreign dictator had raised a higher barrier against American goods than "we have built ourselves" around low-income groups in this country, particularly Southern tenant farmers.

"The unfilled needs of our own citizens," he said, "constitute the biggest potential market for American industry."

In an address prepared for a banquet on the 73rd anniversary of the founding of Howard University, a Negro school at Washington, Wallace said that New Deal farm programs had opened "a path in the wilderness" that may lead to improved economic and social conditions for underprivileged members of both the white and Negro races.

"The dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer is of papamount importance to the Negro race, because half the American Negroes are Southern farmers, and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group."

One-crop farming, a "short-sighted" tenure system, lack of adequate credit, soil depletion and mechanization have created in the South "widespread poverty for which we are trying to find markets."

The Secretary said the answer to the problem in the South may be "a program of subsistence farming, accompanied by a supplemental rural works program, so planned that it would not interfere with their subsistence farming, but would be of great benefit to the areas where the work is performed.

"Aside from the needs of these families, there is a vast field in the South for useful activity. Here is a place where ilde men and idle money could be put to work with profit to all. Thousands of men could be kept busy for years to the nation's advantage, rebuilding the South's forests, preserving and restoring the South's land, controlling floods, and housing the South's rural population."

Wallace suggested that a vast home construction program in the South would do much to cure that region's troubles. He estimated that Southern farmers needed a million new homes. Construction of such homes under a governmental loan proram, he said, would provide employment for thousands of men.

"Some people think it is not the business of government to sponsor programs of the type that have been placed in effect during the last seven years," he said. "But without such government co-operation, many problems in the South and elsewhere would be completely impossible of solution."

movement to revive the interest of young Negroes in farming as a way of profitable living.

Six thousand members of the Second Shiloh Baptist Association, including 30 rural churches and 40 Sunday schools in Hancock, Greene, Taliaferro, Warren and Glascock counties, approved a program to be developed co-operatively with all other denominations.

To Build Center.

They raised money for a religious center to be erected here, the first unit costing $10,000 and including an auditorium with 2,000 seats. The Second Shiloh Association arranged to hold its conferences here, but opened the building for religious, social, economic, and recreational meetings.

Negro leaders expressed a desire of centering the interest of the 600,000 Negro Baptists in Georgia on this center.

The religious conferees came from counties including approximately 40,000 Negroes. Adjoining counties include another 100,000. In the five counties of Shiloh, Negroes own around 60,000 acres of farm land. Their church are out of debt. Their church buildings have been improved.

Lack of Interest.

But the same leaders reported a lack of interest among young people in farming.

"This is the first attempt on the part of the Negro rural church in the deep south to turn its attention directly and dramatically to the job of encouraging the people who make up their membership to provide a larger and more abundant life for themselves, right where they are," asserted Dr. Charles D. Hubert, moderator of the association and dean of the school of religion of Morehouse College.

"Heretofore the churches have talked about and pictured to their members a heaven hereafter, but not much attention has been given to the job of providing for their members a heaven on earth.

New Day in State.

"It is the spirit of the association that in years to come the leaders of the churches will come to this center for inspiring examples and for demonstrations and lectures on how to make farming pay, and how to tie the church in with the life of the people each day of the week."

Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College, said "a new day is in Georgia when Negro Baptist ministers are leaving the towns and cities and coming back to the open country to establish a center of information and inspiration to the farm people of Georgia and the south.

"Any rural culture, religious or social, that hopes to remain a permanent, living, growing culture, must think in terms of farming and the people who make up the farm home. It must somehow make the people believe and know that farming and farm life can be made attractive and satisfying."

great pioneering genius of the south.

"Dr. Herty," he said, "pointed out to the south ways in which underprivileged people might look forward to being able to own their own souls. Dr. Herty elevated the pine tree to a place of eminence in the farm program of the south. Pine tree culture has now become a distinct part of every progressive farm program."

Dr. Hubert urged Negro men and women to obtain a piece of land, plant it in trees, and protect it from fire and destructive insects in order that Negroes might have a more prominent place in the economic life of the southeast.

Urging that a picture of Dr. Herty, with his story, be placed in every Negro school in Georgia, Dr. Hubert declared:

"Children should be brought up to an appreciation of the importance and value of trees as soil builders in offering us a future economic opportunity."

Farm Income For Nation Shows Rise

NOV 24 1940

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—(AP)—Farmers received a cash income of $1,125,000,000 from crop marketings and government payments in October, the Agriculture Department reported today. This amount compared with $908,000,000 in September and $1,042,000,000 in October, 1939.

October income from marketings was $1,049,000,000 and from government payments, $76,000,000.

Cash farm income from January through October was said to have totaled $7,314,000,000 compared with $6,833,000,000 during the same period last year. Government payments totalled $617,000,000 compared with $640,000,000 in the first 10 months of 1939.

The department said most of the increase in income from marketings came from grains, dairy products and meat animals.

Prospects are, it added, that November and December income will be as high as in the corresponding months of 1939, or slightly higher.

The cash income from farm marketings by classes for the 10-month period included:

Grains $858,000,000; cotton and cottonseed $436,000,000; fruits $361,000,000; vegetables $549,00,000; tobacco $189,000,000; meat animals $1,958,000,000; dairy products $1,259,000,000, and poultry and eggs $581,000.000.

Relief No Permanent Aid Says Secretary Wallace

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—"Relief leaves families in the end no better able to support themselves than in the beginning," said Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace in addressing the Senate appropriations committee on the relief appropriation bill for 1941.

"Already it is apparent that the impact of the war is falling more heavily on the farmer than on any other group in this country and that it is striking with the greatest force on that part of the farm population which is most handicapped and least able to withstand it," he said.

Secretary Wallace outlined the program which his department has followed in attempting the rehabilitation of the needy farmers, which he declared has gone ahead at a considerably lower cost than the direct relief or work relief, which in cities costs about $800 per family per year.

Negro Baptists Seek To Keep Youth on Farm

Association Launches Drive To Revive Interest in Agriculture.

LOG CABIN CENTER, Ga., Aug. 20.— (AP) — Reaching out through the powerful medium of their church, Negro Baptists of central Georgia have launched a

'Turn To Soil,' Negroes Urged By Educator

NOV 16 1940

Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert Speaks at Waycross Forest Fete.

WAYCROSS, Ga., Nov. 15.—(AP) A Negro college president urged his people today to turn to farming as a way of life.

Speaking at the annual Slash Pine Festival, in a gathering for Negroes, Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, of Georgia State College, declared agriculture offered great opportunity for those who followed it.

He praised the late Dr. Charles H. Herty, for whom he said the recently constructed agricultural building at Georgia State College was named, describing him as a

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

GENERAL

Says Secretary Wallace in Talk at Howard University Gymnasium

Subsistence Farming Stressed As Impotrant Factor In Rehabilitation Program

Credit Extension To Be Made Under Bankhead Act

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Plans for the "saving" of the South, much of which is "close to starvation", were revealed by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace Saturday night at the Charter Day dinner in Howard university gymnasium.

The dinner closed a day of celebration of the university's 73rd anniversary. Mr. Wallace's address was broadcast over a nationwide radio hookup to other celebrations throughout the country.

One crop farming, a "short-sighted" tenure system, inadequate credit, soil depletion and mechanization, according to Mr. Wallace, have created in the South, "widespread poverty, hopelessness and unrest which challenges our democracy." The result, he said, is that much of the South is "close to starvation" and is "closed to American products for which we are trying to find markets."

A remedy for the plight of thousands of families, he said, may lie in a "program of subsistence farming, accompanied by rural works program, so planned that it would not interfere with their subsistence farming, but would be of great benefit to the areas where the work is performed."

"In my brief talk I want to discuss some of the problems of the Negro in American agriculture. As you know, more Negroes are engaged in farming than in any other occupation.

"I am not going to talk solely in terms of the Negro farmer, because this problem is not a racial one," the Secretary said.

"But the dilemma of the Southern low-income farmer is of paramount importance to the Negro race, because almost half of the American Negroes are Southern farmers and most of them are tenants and sharecroppers in the lowest income group."

Calling attention to the fact that there are fewer acres under cultivation in the South than there were in 1860 and to the larger number of families living on the same acreage, Mr. Wallace declared the result "of extreme poverty for most of the population."

"The Farm Security administration," the Secretary continued, "through rehabilitation loans is doing a big job in helping the low-income farmers. Thousands of families once on relief or close to it, are becoming self-supporting and independent.

"As far as it has gone, this program is working. Except for the cost of supervision, it is almost self-liquidating. The families are not only getting back onto their feet, but they are paying back more than 80 per cent of their loans.

"Last year, a survey of 116,000 typical Southern rehabilitation families, including some 50,000 Negroes, showed they had increased their average net worth from $451 per family to $752.

"They were no longer dependent upon others for help, but were making their own way. Their purchasing power was increasing. And more important, they were looking forward to the future with hope rather than despair.

"Under the Bankhead-Jones act a limited number of farm tenants who cannot get credit elsewhere for the purchase of farms are loaned enough to buy and improve farms on which they can settle down and plan for the future without the constant fear of having to move the next spring. More than 1000 Negroes already have become landowners under this program. This is a small start, but it is a start.

"Let me add that we are proud to find that many of the families that have made the most progress under these programs are Negro families. They have shown that, given a chance, they will do their part." At the same time, Mr. Wallace pointed out, that because of the progress made, the country was far from being "out of the woods."

"Best estimates," Mr. Wallace pointed out, "indicate that the South's farmers need a million new homes. Construction of a million new homes would, of itself, do much to cure the South's troubles. It would provide employment for thousands of men.

"The FSA, through five years of experimenting with low-cost houses, has found that a decent farm house can be built in the South for less than $1,500. In connection with its tenant purchase program it has contracted for the construction of more than 2,000 such homes at an average cost of $1,313, including profits to contractors and suppliers of materials.

"The Southern Negro farmers have given steadfast support to both the farm security and the Triple-A program. Through these efforts, many of them are beginning to see why they have lagged behind and how improvement may be possible."

Earlier in the day, H. S. Howard, son of Gen. O. O. Howard, founder of the school, recalled incidents in the career of his father. Howard university, he said, was patterned after the University of Michigan at which institution the elder Howard studied after being appointed by Lincoln to head up the Freedmen's bureau.

Dr. E. Franklin Frazier made the principal address of the morning.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the glee club.

South Is Close to Starvation, Says Wallace

U.S. Secretary Says that Farm Income Is $2 a Week

WASHINGTON.

Three-quarters of a million Dixie families are living on less than $2 per week per person, according to Henry A. Wallace, secretary of agriculture.

The Secretary was the main speaker at the Charter Day dinner at Howard University, Saturday at 11:30 p.m., and his address was broadcast.

According to Secretary Wallace the South has:

The highest birth rate in the country.

Fifty per cent of the sharecroppers are earning less than $500 a year.

Fewer acres under cultivation than in 1860 and a smaller yield per acre.

Need of 1,000,000 new homes which can be built for $1,300 each and paid for at the rate of $60 a year.

One thousand colored farmers who have become land owners with funds borrowed from Uncle Sam.

Except for the farm program, which almost doubled the cotton crop since 1933, Secretary Wallace said there would have been ruin and misery in the South and a forced migration into Northern cities which already have an unemployment problem.

Last year, he said, 50,000 colored families increased their net worth $300 through the Federal farm program.

The Secretary admitted that the farm program had not reached many families that it could benefit, and that even if the United States Government aided all the farmers that it could, there would still be many Dixie farmers without adequate means to live.

Other speakers on the evening's program included Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of the university, Dr. Montague Cobb, Jesse H. Mitchell, Dean Lewis K. Downing, Miss Pericles McDuffie, Theodore W. Coggs, and Dr. J. Hayden Johnson

Columbia, S. C. State
July 9, 1940

COWPEAS WE SING!

County Agent Rast makes a timely plea to Clarendon farmers that they plant more cowpeas. In days to come, who knows but we shall appreciate as never before the virtues of cowpeas? Velvet beans, soybeans, the vetches, crotalaria, Austrian winter peas—all these have their values. But cowpeas not only furnish **excellent hay**, while enriching the soil and improving it mechanically: **You can eat the peas—and how!** We should have much less pellagra if more families ate cowpeas. And in large areas of South Carolina, we can, if need arise, grow **upland rice** to go with the cowpeas. Hundreds of small patches of it are grown every year, at almost no cost. **A few pigs**—and there you are, all set—war or no war! **And don't neglect collards, either.** Or turnips. Or butter-beans. Or sweet potatoes.

Cowpeas, probably of African origin, where the peas were much esteemed as human food, very likely were among the African food plants introduced to the Americas with the bringing in of Negro slaves soon after the year 1500. They had become well known in Asia prior to 1626. When they reached the mainland of North America is not known, but the Indians either had them before the Jamestown settlement or adopted them soon afterward. They might have been introduced, more or less accidentally, in the 16th century, by some of the European fishermen or exploring expeditions such as De Soto's. Josselyn found them commonly grown in New England as early as 1638. A writer who claimed to have been in South Carolina during the years 1680-82 is quoted in Carroll's "Collections" as saying "pulse they have of great variety, not only of what Europe yields, viz., beans, pease, callavance (cowpeas), figdlaes (frijoles, or kidney beans) and bonavist (chick peas), etc., but many other kinds proper to the place and to us unknown." Cowpeas were being exported from Virginia and Maryland in 1775. The explorer du Pratz found them in cultivation by the Indians of western Mississippi in 1718-34. Thomas Jefferson seems to have been the first writer of note to mention them as cowpeas. The plant, he said, "is very productive, **excellent food for man and beast, awaits without loss our leisure for gathering, and shades the ground very closely through the hottest months of the year."**

National Cotton Council Is Proving Voice Needed By Industry For Decades

And Oscar Johnston, As Head Of Organization, Is Credited With Being Sparkplug Behind Association Building New Markets For South's Staple

By NORMAN BRADLEY
Associated Press Staff Writer

Cotton is "talking turkey" these days.

Through a lusty young organization calling itself the National Cotton Council, the voice of a united raw cotton industry, long inarticulate in the art of selling itself, is being heard in legislative halls and committee rooms, in construction offices, at highbrow fashion shows—wherever anything can be said to increase use of the South's greatest crop.

Is the nation paying heed?

Yes, says the council.

As proof it points to this:

1. Domestic Consumption: For the year ending July 31, United States consumption was estimated at $7,750,000 bales, within whispering distance of the 7,768,000-bale all-time record. The council predicts domestic sources will beat that this year and absorb 8,500,000 bales. Ultimate goal is 10,000,000 bales annually.

2. Carryover: Cotton either Government-owned or held under Government loan amounted to 8,867,109 baes on June 29 compared with 11,183,946 the same date last year. This means the huge cotton surplus is being reduced.

3. Cotton Cloth: Last year the Nation used more yards—3,646,700,000 to be exact—than ever before in its history. This is where the council's style show activities came in.

Council Satisfied

"Of course the Council cannot claim all the credit for these. But it is highly gratifying to note they coincide with the council's first year of operation," says black-mustached Oscar Johnston, president of the organization and manager, at Scott, Miss., of one of the Nation's largest cotton plantations.

"We've won some initial victories. Now we're on our way to greater successes.

"Never again will the voice of cotton be as it once was—soft as its lint and low as its price.

"The level-headed publisher of one of the Nation's best fashion magazines told us this year he was 'damned tired of cotton coming around with a tin cup and sad story begging for help.'

"We convinced him there are no more 'tin cup and sad story' tactics for cotton. We're selling our product on its own merits and in a business-like way. That publisher by the way is helping plenty in our campaign."

The campaign's success is due apparently to two things—the man Johnston, able and energetic, a "big business" man in his own right; and his successful demand for a "big business" treasury financed not by passing the hat but by what amounts to assessments within the cotton industry.

Knows His Crop

Banker and lawyer as well as "dirt farmer," the 50-year-old Mr. Johnston is a product of the cotton belt who probably knows more about the economy of the staple from field to merchant's shelf than any other one man in the Nation.

Once manager of the Government's Cotton Pool, now he is a member of the Advisory Committees for the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce on matters pertaining to cotton.

More than any other single individual, Mr. Johnston started the movement that culminated 18 months ago in the council's formation.

"I'm no crusader," he told friends back in 1937, "but the cotton people should be brought together to promote cotton, advertise and fight for it."

With that conviction, he studied planned and argued for the council, "the first and only organization which represents the entire raw cotton industry."

It took Mr. Johnston's unhurried voice, calm but packing the wallop of cold logic, to convince the industry's diverse interests that here at last was the organization forward-looking cotton men had sought for years.

Formal organization came in January, 1939, at Dallas. Mr. Johnston accepted the presidency of the new council.

Business-Like Approach

Johnston demands a business-like approach to the promotion of new usages of cotton. Any new product to receive council sanction must be good—not just "made of cotton."

Aides say Mr. Johnston puts it this way:

The new product must do a better job at the same price as the article it would displace or do the same job at a lower price."

The council regards "cotton clothes in the high fashion field" as one of its best bets in pushing domestic consumption. Therefore, it used the ever effective "pretty girl with pretty clothes" theme—it sent a cotton-wardrobed "maid of cotton" traipsing from one end of the country to the other this Summer as delightful proof that cotton clothes can have plenty of "oomph."

Fashion and picture editors reproduced the maid in all sorts of fetching costumes and alluring poses, and the council's high pressure publicity department beamed like a proud mother over her first infant.

Another good prospect in domestic usage is construction. To promote this, the council is helping introduce a shingle made of concrete with a cotton binder. Other construction outlets are in cotton-made wall coverings and insulating materials.

New Sweeping Compound

A cottonseed hull sweeping compound has been developed under council auspices and has had what the council terms an enthusiastic reception. Three manufacturers are licensed to make it.

The council also has promoted merchandising campaigns in which manufacturers are giving away as premiums 6,000,000 cotton sheets, pillow cases and towels.

An eye-catching emblem, "a quality product of American cotton," has been devised for use in advertisements of high-grade sheets, towels and other products which because of their long identifications by high-sounding trade names are not usually recognized as being made of cotton. Several manufacturers are already using the emblems in national advertising.

To stimulate the use of margarine, an important outlet for cottonseed oil, the council has campaigned to eliminate state taxes on its sale. In Mississippi where the Legislature threw out a license fee, the number of stores handling margarine doubled in a few months, the council said.

Little could be done for the industry's war-throttled foreign trade. The council devoted its efforts along this line to securing a liberalization of war risk insurance for exporters, organization of the RFC-financed Cotton Export Corporation to facilitate foreign sales and attempts to secure ships for overseas movement of American cotton.

All Help In Work

All five major cotton interests—producers, cotton merchants, ginners, seed crushers and warehousemen—have a hand in financing the council's activities.

For this year's "war chest," the council is asking farmers to contribute "dues" of 5 cents a bale, ginners 2 cents a ton on cottonseed and crushers another cent a ton. To concentrate collections in a few responsible hands, warehousemen will receive and transmit the farmer's nickel-a-bale and crushers will do the same for the assessments on cottonseed. Other interests will pay special dues.

Last year the council depended largely on individuals to send in contributions. At that, "dues" were paid on approximately 60 per cent of the crop. This year, offering proof of its effectiveness and instituting a simplified collection system, the council hopes to collect on from 90 to 100 per cent.

Since collections will not start until cotton begins moving in late Summer, there can be no indication of the response for several weeks. Until its financial status is definitely determined, the council is not mapping out a hard and fast program for the coming year.

But you can bet it won't stop talking cotton. You see, it has a reputation to uphold.

Quitman, Ga., Free-Press
November 21, 1940

Hubert Calls Farming Negro's 'Great Chance'

Speaking at the annual slash pine festival at Waycross, in a gathering for negroes, Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, of Georgia State College, declared agriculture offered great opportunity for those who followed it

He praised the late Dr. Charles H Herty, for whom he said the recently constructed agricultural building at Georgia State College was named describing him as a great pioneering genius of the South.

"Dr. Herty," he said, "pointed out to the South ways in which underprivileged people might look forward to being able to own their own souls."

Dr. Hubert urged negro men and women to obtain a piece of land, plant it in trees, and protect it from fire and destructive insects in order that negroes might have a more prominent place in the economic life of the Southeast.

Urging that a picture of Dr. Herty, with his story, be placed in every negro school in Georgia, Dr. Hubert declared:

"Children should be brought up to an appreciation of the importance and value of trees as soil-builders in offering us a future economic opportunity."

Vidalia, Ga., Advance
May 16, 1940

MANY GEORGIA NEGROES FARM SUCCESSFULLY T 28

Hundreds of Georgia Negro farmers today can tell impressive stories of how they manage to keep their barns and larders full and their children in school, although many of their Negro neighbors are singing the blues of dwindling income and hard times.

Here is a brief summary of the farming activities which enabled these Negroes to become self sustaining, as reported to Director Walter S. Brown, of the Georgia Agrficultural Extension Service, by P. H. Stone, state Negro Extension agent.

Negroes in Screven county proudly point to C. F. Lovett and his 700-acre farm as a classic example of what perseverance and intelligence can accomplish toward a sound live at home program, and openly admit Lovett as their ideal, hoping some day to match or surpass his record. Located in the richest farming section of Screven county, Lovett's 700 acres furnished ample food and feed for family and livestock needs, and through the sale of chickens, hogs, truck crops, and surplus livestock he is able to keep one of his sons in the Georgia State College. His boy, a junior, intends returning to his father's farm and together with his technical training and his father's experience hopes to make it more profitable than ever before.

But Lovett isn't the only "Cinderella' farmer. Look at the progress Blusher Martin has made on his 550-acre farm in Mitchell county. He is keeping 13 children in school. A sound live at home program has brought him where he is today and unless the bottom falls out of the livestock market and diversified farming becomes taboo he will doubtlessly remain at his present high level. Martin, too, has a son enrolled in an agricult ural school who will help with the farm after graduation.

These Negroes are only two of hundreds over the state making a success of farming by adopting sure, sound agricultural principles, content to plod methodically on, conserving resources, living close to the land, perfectly willing for others to grab the glory while they slowly amass money enough to educate their children, operate the farm, provide medical attention, and save for old age.

Prophets of agricultural gloom, Stone says, might do well to study such cases and strive for the comparative success attained by the worthy negro farmers.

Dawson, Ga., News
April 4, 1940

FARMS OFFER NEGROES BEST LIVING CHANCES T 28

RACE LEADER SEES NO HOPE FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS IN THE CITIES.

Because competition in urban centers has become so keen there is less chance for any number of Negroes to operate successful enterprises in cities, farming offers the Negro his best chance, so says Benjamin F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College.

Addressing a meeting of Negro farmers of the Piedmont section in South Carolina, he praised the advantages of farm life, but said "many well intentioned" persons were advising Negro youth that farms offer little chance of success.

"When people make such statements," said Hubert, "they should be asked to direct Negroes to some other business or occupation other than farming where the masses of Negroes own and operate productive enterprises that enable them in large numbers to earn a living."

He hit certain school teachers, declaring that it was "high time we despense with teachers who care nothing for the school or the people who patronize the school except for the salaries that they receive."

A real teacher, he stated, "will help farmers and their wives to show girls and boys the beauty, dignity, adventure and independence that the farm offers to Negroes."

"Life on the farm may be difficult, but where else is it possible for Negroes to have an equal chance at making a satisfying life for themselves?"

Cedartown, Ga., Standard
May 16, 1940

Many Negroes Farm Successfully While Neighbors Sing 'Hard Times'

Hundreds of Georgia Negro farmers today can tell impressive stories of how they manage to keep their barns and larders full and their children in school, although many of their negro neighbors are singing the blues of dwindling income and hard times.

Here is a brief summary of the farming activities which enabled these negroes to become self-sustaining, as reported to Director Walter S. Brown, of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, by P. H. Stone, state Negro Extension agent.

Neroes in Screven county proudly point to C. F. Lovett and his 700-acre farm as a classic example of what perseverance and intelligence can accomplish toward a sound live-at-home program, and openly admit Lovett as their ideal, hoping some day to match or surpass his record. Located in the richest farming section of Screven county, Lovett's 700 acres furnished ample food and feed for family and livestock needs, and through the sale of chickens, hogs, truck crops, and surplus livestock he is able to keep one of his sons in the Georgia State College. His boy, a junior, intends returning to his father's farm and together with his technical training and his father's experience hopes to make it more profitable than ever before.

But Lovett isn't the only "Cinderella" farmer. Look at the progress Blusher Martin has made on his 550-acre farm in Mitchell county. He is keeping 13 children in school. A sound live-at-home program has brought him where he is today and unless the bottom falls out of the livestock market and diversified farming becomes, "taboo" he will doubtlessly remain at his present high level. Martin, too has a son enrolled in an agricultural school who will help with the farm after graduation.

These negroes are only two of hundreds over the state making a success of farming by adopting sure, sound agricultural principles, content to plod methodically on, conserving resources, living close to the land, perfectly willing for others to grab the glory, while they slowly amass money enough to educate their children operate the farm, provide medical attention, and save for old age.

Prophets of agricultural gloom, Stone says, might do well to study such cases and strive for the comparative success attained by the worthy negro farmers.

Says "Sand Hill" Is Progressive Because Of One Man's Diligence

By W. A. HAGINS

"SAND HILL" or "Smith's Chapel" is a rural Race settlement in upper Long county, Georgia, some 20 miles from Ludowici, the county seat, and about six miles east of Glennville.

Like many other exclusively Race communities throughout Georgia and the South, it has been necessary to fight hard and continuously for its existence during the last 15 years, for farming is the source of its income.

How these people have held together under these changes in farming plans and economic difficulties seems worthy of study, for back of it all there is a human interest story.

Assistant state club Agent Z. T. Hubert first visited this community some three years ago and reported that he was impressed by the general appearance of the men as to size, show of intelligence, and sense of cooperation.

"Our meeting," he said, "was at the community church. Not far off from this church was the skeleton of an enlarged school house which evidently was going up by degrees as their labor and finances became available," the assistant state club agent declared. This indicated healthy growth.

The 1939-40 school term found this building finished and in use. Also during the month of April construction began on a school lunch kitchen on the grounds, and they own and operate a school bus which brings in school children from nearby communities, assisted, of course, by the county board of education, thus becoming in a small way a rural consolidated school.

But why? How can one account for this enterprise, this cooperative community objective? Why is this Sand Hill community so different from the hundreds of other localities in this low country district, far off from the influence of urban social life—and the "bright lights," he asked?

Now in a very solemn mood, the assistant state club agent made a comparison of another nearby community by saying, "In a neighboring community, not 25 miles distant (which shall not be named) I could not find one home with a garden and no attempt made at home owenership. School was taught in an old abandoned church building propped up on one side with poles. And to secure a school garden, a generous white neighbor had to give the use of an acre of his cultivated land. And so why the difference?"

Now here's the story as told by the assistant state club agent:

One Man — Henry Porter

"Somewhere between 1860 and 1866 (the records do not show, and he does not know exactly) a boy was born not over eight miles from where he now lives. He grew up (as other boys did) under the very exacting and trying conditions of Reconstruction.

"But somewhere in his late teens or early manhood, he heard of Hampton Institute, far up in Virginia, and finally made his way there. From 1866 through 1888, while working his way through school doing farm work and serving on river boats, he was able to know and drink in some of the spirit of the late General Armstrong. Perhaps the general never knew that the boy touched his garments, but we who visit 'Sand Hill' know it.

"He is now an old man, but tall and well preserved, still doing his work. No teacher, no preacher; just a farmer who has quietly gone about his work, buying a farm, building a home, and raising a family. Gradually other people have followed his example and the result is the 'Sand Hill' settlement.

"You would not learn this from him outright; for he is rather reserved and quiet. We sat on the house steps and talked of the farm and community problems, and gradually I learned all this, and more; that he has 600 acres of good farm and timber land; that he has sons and daughters, and grandchildren.

Son to Carry-On

"One son's farm adjoins his, and this son is gradually taking over community leadership under the guidance of the father (how many wise people forget this obligation!).

"So when I see this 'up and coming' farm community and realize that one man, this man, perhaps born a slave, is responsible for it all, I know that he has done a wonderful thing; he has wrought better than he knew.

"Henry Porter is the real citizen —an asset to his county and to his country," he added.

Reclaiming Rural Georgia

THE VISIT OF some half a hundred tourists, comprising farmers from the west to the farm area of Georgia should not be without its crying significance. These men were far from pleasure seekers and sightseers. They have read and heard of the vast volume of Georgia lands going to waste and the inviting opportunities open in this state to the industrious and enterprising mind. Many of them no doubt, have had trouble in the dust basin and in other areas where natural processes have hindered good farming.

It may be that they have in mind reclaiming much of this vast acreage and turning it to the raising of wheat, corn and live stock for which the west is noted. If and when they set foot on the fertile soil of this state with their progressive and modern methods of farming and cooperative marketing the prices of land are bound to soar.

While we have advanced the idea from time to time and other sections of the nation where people do not mind working might be turned on this state, we are not without pride to suggest that those who are interested in good farming in our own ranks take advantage of the vast farming resources of Georgia.

While Georgia has never been the foremost ranking agricultural state, in days gone by it was a center of good farming. Georgia literally fed itself in the old days and there is no just reason why this cannot be again realized. The older class of farmers are gone. They of course mployed the old methods, but in the main they made farming profitable. It was no uncommon thing to see old fodder stacks in the fields, large hay barns filled and cotton all around the barn, awaiting better prices. That day has gone with the wind and a new order is on the scene. The old urge in farming is present among us no more and nearly everybody on the farm is dissatisfied.

The federal government has had to come to the rescue of the farmers and now controlled acreage and outright pensions to farmers are fast depleting our farm produce and the native urge to work. The towns and cities are filled with ex-farmers who are employed on federal projects or on downright relief, while some of the best lands in the state are growing up in weeds. The churches are falling down the schools have been transferred to pivotal centers and the civic and educational interests in the communities have passed out of existence.

If we could see our farms reclaimed, there would be a steady trek from the glutted areas of the city of honest people with the will to work and make their own living without federal or state sponsorship. The old church would come back and the rural schools would be reestablished. The flower of promise would again blossom on the farm and good times will well be on the way back to God's beautiful acres where man rightfully belongs.

It is certain that farm lands will never be cheaper than now. The opportunities to buy a farm with the assistance of the government will never be better and there is no reason why those with the urge to work should not avail themselves of the opportunities knocking at their doors.

Let the state be aroused to its own resources as enumerated in the great speech of Governor Talmadge at Albany. This is our state and we should not sit idly by and see outside interests come in and do what we need to do ourselves for our own benefit.

AGRICULTURE - 1940

CONDITION OF

Negro Farmers Receive Advice

Telegraph

Bruce Tells Group How to Make Good Living

1-19-40

Macon

Raise as many products for home consumption as possible and emphasize cattle-raising as a cash crop, County Agent D. F. Bruce told Bibb Negro farmers when he addressed them on How to Make a Living at their annual meeting at Steward Chapel yesterday.

"No other market offers such big profits as one's own table and feed barn," Mr. Bruce said. "Food, feed and fertility are the foundation stone for success."

Mr. Bruce pointed out that surveys have shown that the value of the food consumed by the average live-at-home family is between $600 and $700 and that a good farmer who has a cash income of $1,000 is as well off as the man in the city who makes $1,600.

The speaker urged the farmers to remember that they can make more money by feeding grains to cattle and selling the cattle than by selling the grain.

In conclusion, Mr. Bruce emphasized the importance of organization of farmers, saying that the coming election probably will bring changes in the agricultural program.

Georgia's Farmers Hear State Officials

SAVANNAH, Ga.—(SNS)—President B. F. Hubert of the Georgia State College, Professor F. M. Staley, director of agriculture and teacher-trainer at the college; and Professor Leroy Brown, head of the auto mechanics and electrical division at the college, spent Thursday and Friday meeting farmers and teachers in Southwest Georgia.

On Thursday morning, they met the farmers of Thomas county near Boston, Georgia, in the Centennial Community. J. B. Stevens, county agent for Negroes, was in charge of the meeting. Here, there was a very fine meeting of farmers and their wives holding arrangements for their farm programs for 1940.

On Thursday evening, there was a father and son banquet at the New Union School near Thomasville, where Professor F. M. Staley presented the state and national championship prizes to the winning judging team that came from this community. This team, composed of three boys, namely, William Vergil, Rufus Keaton and Ben Cole, won highest honors in judging contest which was held at Bordentown, N. J., in August, 1939. President B. F. Hubert was the speaker for the occasion where several hundred Negro farmers and farm people were gathered. Several prominent white officials were also at this meeting.

On Friday morning, the party from Georgia State College visited the Douglas High School at Thomasville, where they addressed students of the high school department. On Friday afternoon, they attend the farmers' conference held at Eastman, where several hundred Negro farmers and their wives were gathered, under the supervision of Home Demonstration agent Pauline Riggs.

President Hubert advised the farmers to stick to the farming game because, he stated, "The farm offers the only real opportunity where Negroes may hope to own their own souls in this highly competitive world." The farm, he said, properly handled provides an independence and economic security that can hardly be found in any other business in this country today."

After leaving Eastman, the party visited the school at Almo and talked with many of the teachers who were present. The party expressed themselves as being very hopeful over the outlook for Negro farmers in Southwest Georgia. They found the Georgia State College growing in favor with the people everywhere they went.

GEORGIA

Fitzgerald Ga. Leader-Enterprise
April 18 1940

GEORGIA FARM NEGROES PROGRESSING DESPITE ADVERSE CONDITIONS

In spite of low farm income, low market prices, and other adverse conditions, Director Walter S. Brown of the agricultural extension service, said this week that hundreds of Georgia negro farmers have managed to make a comfortable living, own their homes, educate their children, and become respectable citizens.

Here's a brief resume of farm activities of a number of successful negro farmers, as reported by P. H. Stone, state negro agent for the extension service. These farmers, Stone says, have made "a go of farming".

Ben Halcomb of Baldwin county has a 500-acre farm of which he is owner. On this farm, he has built a modern home, barns, and smokehouses. He uses modern tillage implements and produces enough food and feed stuff to take care of the family and livestock needs. Milk cows, chickens, hogs, and a year-round garden take care of the family needs in addition to supplying some for the markets and his neighbors.

In Bibb county, R. L. Woolfolk is another farmer who has accomplished a great deal. From his 680-acre farm he has been able to make it pay for itself. There is food in abundance to care for the family needs. His farm is properly drained, silos built, pastures in good condition where one can find livestock grazing at will. He furnishes the local markets there with vegetables the year-round from his garden. Woolfolk is certainly living at home.

William Adams, a Brooks county farmer, is the owner of a 500-acre farm. Erosion has been checked, a fine crop rotation system is practiced from year to year and he is living at home. From the road one can see any number of hogs hogging off green feed. In addition, there can be seen milk cows, feeder steers, and other livestock grazing on some of the finest pastures in that section.

Eddie Wilson of Bulloch county has a nice farm. He took up the mortgage on his father-in-law's farm immediately after he married and is now the owner of this 200-acre farm. There is an abundance of feed to take care of the family and livestock needs.

Wesley Brigham's 200-acre farm in Burke county is a model farm. Brigham is the owner of this place. He states that his year-round garden made it possible for him to become the owner of this farm.

In Crawford county is Waymond Miller who is the owner of a 320-acre farm. He has built a modern home on this place, has modern farm machinery and food in abundance to care for the family and livestock needs. He is furnishing the local markets with farm products from his farm.

Peter Barlo of Dougherty county has a 250-acre farm. He furnishes the meat packing plants in that section with cattle raised on his farm. He raises plenty of feed stuff to sell and saves enough to care for family needs. There is a hammer mill on this farm which crushes food for the livestock. He also furnishes this same type of service to his neighbors.

Iverson Ward of Greene county is an outstanding farmer in that section. He has a 300-acre farm and is doing a great job. On this farm there is a home nicely equipped, well-built barns and smokehouses, milk cows, hogs, chickens, a year-round garden, and food in abundance. Already there is plenty of green feed in the fields being hogged off.

Mach Crawford, also of Greene county, rented the same farm from 1910 to 1937. He paid $4,200 for rent during these twenty-seven years. The place rented only sold for $1,300. Recently, Crawford bought 106 acres of land. During the last three years, a house has been built, a well dug, and a barn, smokehouse, out houses, and garage built. Taxes have been paid and he owes only $70 on this entire farm.

At Dublin, in Laurens county, here is Felton Beard who is the owner of a 218-acre farm. On this place can be found improved hog houses, self feeders, range houses for chickens, and crib bins full of feed stuff to take care of livestock needs. Soil building is practiced and he believes in a year-round garden.

W. P. Perry of Social Circle, in Walton county, is another prosperous farmer. He has 150 acres of good land in cultivation which he purchased. Perry is a supporter of the extension program. On his farm can be found flocks of chickens, hogs, milk cows, and other livestock, in addition to many farm implements. His farm is properly drained and he is also building his land through soil conservation practices.

At Union Point, in Greene county, Miles Hackney has purchased a farm. His 150-acre farm has been practically revolutionized through soil building practices advocated by the federal AAA farm program. He has built a home, a garage, smokehouses, and barns.

Scores Of Race Farmers Tell Impressive Stories

By W. A. HAGINS

SAVANNAH, Ga.—While many of their neighbors are singing the blues of dwindling allotments and hard times and while others are spending valuable energy developing excuses for failures, scores of Negro farmers scattered throughout the state can tell impressive stories of how they manage to keep their farms and larders full, their credit gilt-edged and their children in school.

Prophets of agricultural gloom might do well to study such cases and isolate the success factors employed by these farm families.

Here's a brief resume of a few farm activities which make it possible for these farm people to give their children an education:

C. F. Lovett of Screven county has a 700-acre farm of which he is the owner. From this farm, he has been able to make a successful living and give his children a chance to fit themselves adequately into whatever environment they might be placed. There is plenty of food and feed stuff to care for family and livestock needs. From the proceeds of chickens, hogs milk cows, and a year-round garden, he has been able to keep his son Jason, who is a junior agricultural student at the Georgia State College, in school. Jason states that he plans to go back to this farm when he completes his studies and combine his education with his father's experience in an effort to make it more successful than ever before.

In Mitchell county, Blusher Martin has a 550-acre farm from which he is able to keep thirteen children in school. A sound live-at-home program is practiced on this farm and there is plenty of food and feed stuff on hand to take care of the family and livestock needs in addition to supplying the neighbors and markets with surplus commodities. His son, Ernest, has enrolled in the school of agriculture here at the college and plans to return to this farm after completing his education.

Georgia Farmers' Low Income

By WM. R. KING
Negro County Agent

The Citizens Fact Finding Committee of Georgia in commenting on the comparative ills of the farm people of Georgia, in which was set forth facts revealing the low income status of the Georgia farm people stated that, The Annual per capita cash income of the Georgia farm population is, on the average, over a period of years, $100 less than the average individual farm income for the United States and that if there are five in a family, this means an annual cash income for the family of $100 less than the average farm family income for the nation, and that a fitting or reasonable goal should be set for bring the state's annual income up to, at least, that of the nation.

This committee said further that the Georgia farmer has only one third as much crop land per person, from which to derive a cash income as the farmer of the middle west; and that the yield per acre of staple crops are approximately two-thirds of the national average. For example Terrell county is acclaimed a leading peanut county in the state, with an average yield of 587 pounds of peanuts per acre, with Lee county producing only 445 pounds while Dougherty county came up with the low average of 398 pounds per acre in 1939.

These low yields of this staple crop are typical of the state all over, with productions of its staple crops. In spite of the low margin of crop land per person and low yields per acre, it might be added that there is little being done to counteract these deficiencies in the way of seed selection, fertilization and methods of cultivation, but rather the same old methods that have been in vogue for many years, are largely being followed, as much as it seems apparent that a solution in part, is to increase yields per acre of these staple crops along with finding other sources of farm income, in order to raise this low income level of the Georgia farmer.

This committee set forth the following ways by which the low income level might be raised: 1—Increase acres of crop land per person; 2—Increase yield per acre; 3—Increase sources of income; 4—Increase days of labor; 5—Increase use of power; 6—Improve quality of products; 7—Grade and pack properly; 8—Increase use of land resources; 9—Control insects and parasites and diseases and 10—To Support Farm Agencies and Organizations.

Bringing into play these 10 remedies require rather periodic action. That is to say, at certain seasons of the year and certain stages of the farm operation, each of these remedies might be acted upon.

It is now timely to act on No. 6 which is regarded as strikingly important among these remedies: Improve the Quality of Farm Products. This type of need is in more abundant. Better seeds, better breeds of stock, better methods of cultivation and better management, will go a long way toward making up for the deficit in short age of land per person and many of the other deficiencies being blamed for the low income of the Georgia farmer.

Valdosta, Ga., Eagle
April 15, 1940

Farms Offer Negroes Best Living Chances

Because competition in urban centers has become so keen there is less chance for any number of negroes to operate successful enterprises in cities, farming offers the negro his best chance, so says Benjamin F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State college.

Addressing a meeting of negro farmers of the Piedmont section in South Carolina, he praised the advantages of farm life, but said "many well-intentioned" persons were advising negro youth that farms offer little chance of success.

"When people make such statements," said Hubert, "they should be asked to direct negroes to some other business or occupation other than farming where the masses of negroes own and operate productive enterprises that enable them in large numbers to earn a living."

He hit certain school teachers, declaring that it was "high time we dispense with teachers who care nothing for the school or the people who patronize the school except for the salaries that they receive."

A real teacher, he stated, "'will help farmers and their wives to show girls and boys the beauty, dignity, adventure and independence that the farm offers to negroes."

"Life on the farm may be difficult, but where else is it possible for negroes to have an equal chance at making a satisfying life for themselves?"

Greensboro, Ga. Herald-Journal
April 19, 1940

The Place For The Negro

The Athens Banenr-Herald finds much to praise in the views of Benjamin F. Hubert, president of the Georgia State College for negro youths, at Savannah. Addressing a meeting of negro farmers in South Carolina, Hubert told him audience: "Because competition in urban centers has become so keen there is less chance for any number of negroes to operate successful enterprises in cities, farming offers the negro his best chance." The Banner-Herald says: "There is no doubt of the correctness of the statements as promulgated by this colored educator. If the members of his race will take his advice and follow his program conditions are bound to improve among the negro farmers."

Georgia Has Fourth Lowest Farm Tax Rate

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
OCT 22 1940

1939 Levy Averaged 14 Cents; Nation's Was 39.

By GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.
Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—Farm real estate taxes in Georgia during 1939 were the fourth lowest in the nation, the Department of Agriculture revealed in a study made public today.

The Georgia levy per acre for 1939 was 14 cents, compared with a national average of 39 cents, according to the report. Texas had a similar 14-cent rate, while New Mexico, with 5 cents; Wyoming, with 6 cents, and Montana, with 9 cents, occupied the lowest three positions.

On the basis of $100 of farm valuation, the Georgia tax rate of 72 cents was the fifth lowest among the states. Lowest was West Virginia, with 54 cents, with Washington, Virginia and Texas occupying the next lowest positions, with rates of 56 cents, 67 cents, and 69 cents, respectively.

The trend of Georgia taxes from 1910 through 1939, as shown in the department's study, has been as follows:

	Levy per acre		Levy per $100 of Value	
Year	Ga.	Nationally)	Ga.	Nationally)
1910	$.10	.19	$.55	.47
1920	.28	.51	.79	.79
1930	.30	.57	1.28	1.30
1934	.22	.37	1.30	1.19
1935	.23	.37	1.34	1.14
1936	.22	.38	1.17	1.13
1937	.24	.39	1.28	1.15
1938	.16	.39	.84	1.16
1939	.14	.39	.72	1.16

Quitman, Ga., Free-Press
June 27, 1940

Negroes Are Finding Added Encouragement

Georgia's negro farmers are finding encouragement in their farming activities throughout the state, according to a report received by Director Walter S. Brown, of the Extension Service, from P. H. Stone, State Extension negro agent.

In Newton county, 25 farmers have planted their crops with pure seed corn this year. Every cooperating farmer in the county has increased his corn acreage in an effort to supply family and livestock needs.

Grain crops of negro farmers in Jenkins county are in better shape than ever before, due to the inauguration of recommended Extension practices. One farmer in the area has purchased a combine with which to harvest his grain, as well as give his neighbors the same service.

James Peyton and Henry Land, two Bibb farmers, are putting forth great efforts to improve pastures. Peyton has planted four acres to lespedeza, Dallis and carpet grass, while land is growing kudzu for pasture improvement. Negroes in Hancock county are carrying on seven demonstrations in making window screens, covering walls, and canning vegetables. More than 87 per cent of the farmers in one community planted vegetables on large scale this year.

Hog production in Meriwether county is on the increase. Neel Grier, negro farmer in the Stovall community, reports over 50 hogs and pigs in good condition on his farm. This year four farmers in Evans county are producing tomatoes for demonstration projects.

Three Brooks county farmers are securing fair returns from beans, while negroes in Dougherty county are putting forth efforts to make gardens serve a greater purpose as a home supply unit.

Fifteen Liberty county farmers are preparing pastures for their hogs. Many of the swine are being treated against cholera with a total of 184 having been inoculated.

The homemade oil brooder is quite popular with small-scale poultry raisers in Baldwin county. Negro farmers in this section are using the brooders to good advantage with turkeys. At present 200 turkeys have been started by means of the brooders.

In the Peach county area, the farmers' club in Kings Chapel community have purchased a grain binder. A loan of $450 was made to one of the farmers to purchase the harvesting machine.

Reclaiming Rural Georgia

Daily World
7/1/40
Atlanta, Ga.

THE VISIT OF some half a hundred tourists, comprising farmers from the west to the farm area of Georgia should not be without its crying significance. These men were far from pleasure seekers and sightseers. They have read and heard of the vast volume of Georgia lands going to waste and the inviting opportunities open in this state to the industrious and enterprising mind. Many of them, no doubt, have had trouble in the dust basin and in other areas where natural processes have hindered good farming.

It may be that they have in mind reclaiming much of this vast acreage and turning it to the raising of wheat, corn and livestock for which the west is noted. If and when they set foot on the fertile soil of this state with their progressive and modern methods of farming and cooperative marketing, the prices of land are bound to soar.

While we have advanced the idea from time to time that other sections of the nation where people do not mind working might be turned on this state, we are not without pride to suggest that those who are interested in good farming in our own ranks take advantage of the vast farming resources of Georgia.

While Georgia has never been the foremost ranking agricultural state, in days gone by it was a center of good farming. Georgia literally fed itself in the old days and there is no just reason why this cannot be again realized. The older class of farmers are gone. They of course employed the old methods, but in the main they made farming profitable. It was no uncommon thing to see old fodder stacks in the fields, large hay barns filled and cotton all around the barn, awaiting better prices. That day has gone with the wind and a new order is on the scene. The old urge in farming is present among us no more and nearly everybody on the farm is dissatisfied.

The federal government has had to come to the rescue of the farmers and now controlled acreage and outright pensions to farmers are fast depleting our farm produce and the native urge to work. The towns and cities are filled with ex-farmers who are employed on federal projects or on downright relief, while some of the best lands in the state are growing up in weeds. The churches are falling down, the schools have been transferred to pivotal centers and the civic and educational interests in the communities have passed out of existence.

If we coud see our farms reclaimed, there would be a steady trek from the glutted areas of the city of honest people with the will to work and make their own living without federal or state sponsorship. The old church would come back and the rural schools would be reestablished. The flower of promise would again blossom on the farm and good times will well be on the way back to God's beautiful acres where man rightfully belongs.

It is certain that farm lands will never be cheaper than now. The opportunities to buy a farm with the assistance of the government will never be better and there is no reason why those with the urge to work should not avail themselves of the opportunities knocking at their doors.

Let the state be aroused to its own resources as enumerated in the great speech of Governor Talmadge at Albany and rise to past. Let Georgia reclaim Georgia and put the idle acres and people the level of self-sustaining as it did in the good old days of the pie to work. This is our state and we should not sit idly by and see outside interests come in and do what we need to do ourselves for our own benefit.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
August 6, 1940

ENCOURAGEMENT OF NEGRO FARMERS

The negro farmers of Georgia are finding encouragement in their agricultural activities throughout the state, according to a report that has been made by P. H. Brown, agent in charge of work of negroes in the extension service.

The agent made the report to Director Walter S. Brown, of the state extension service and gave some interesting information about the activities of negro farmers.

"In Newton county," says the report, "twenty-five farmers have planted their crops with pure seed corn this year. Every cooperating farmer in the county has increased his corn acreage in an effort to supply family and livestock needs.

"Grain crops of negro farmers in Jenkins county are in better shape than ever before, due to the inauguration of recommended extension practices. One farmer in the area has purchased a combine with which to harvest his grain, as well as give his neighbors the same service.

"James Peyton and Henry Land, two Bibb farmers, are putting forth great efforts to improve pastures. Peyton has planted four acres to lespedeza, Dallis and carpet grass, while Land is growing kudzu for pasture improvement. Negroes in Hancock county are carrying on seven demonstrations in making window screens, covering walls, and canning vegetables. More than 87 per cent of the farmers in one community planted vegetables on large scale this year.

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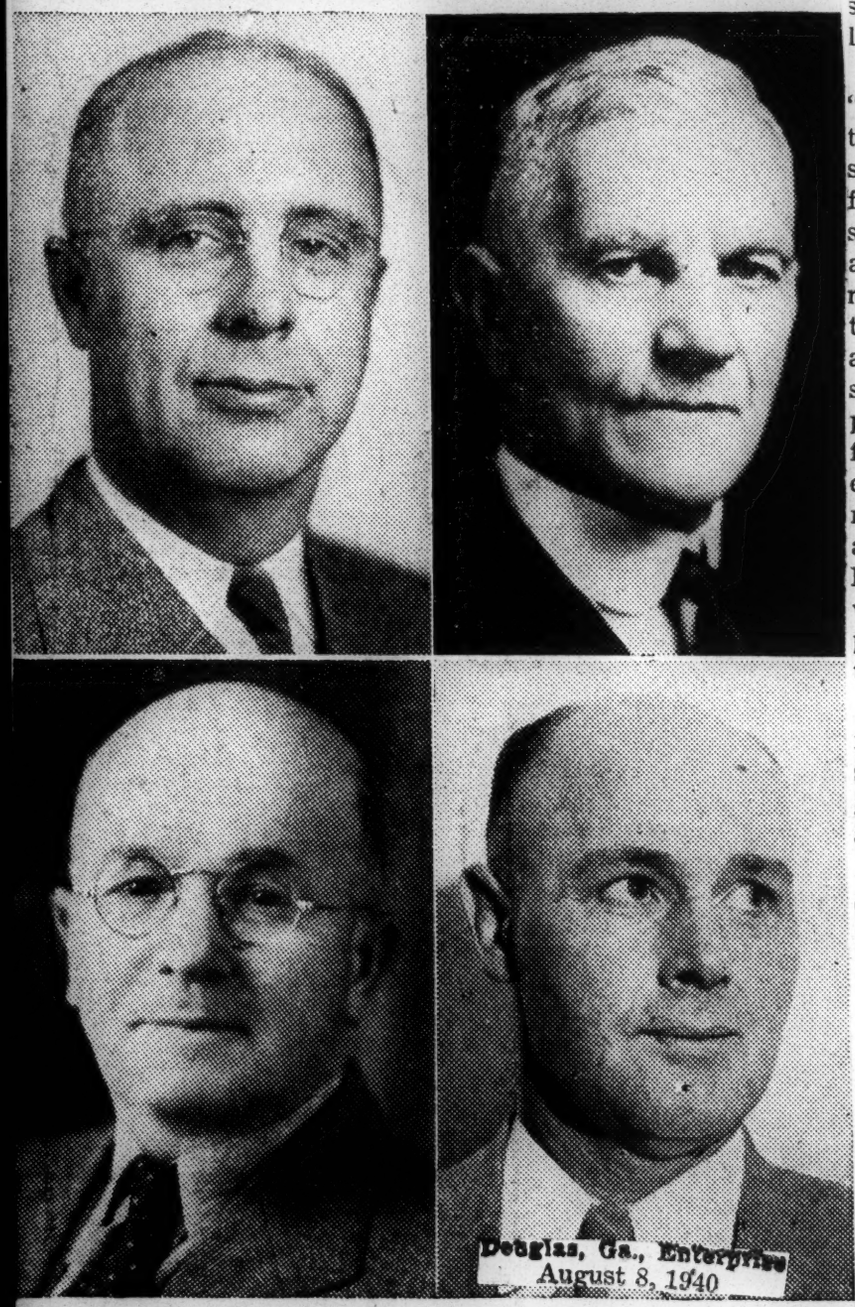
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"In the Peach county area, the farmers' club in Kings Chapel community have purchased a grain binder. A loan of $450 was made to one of the farmers to purchase the harvesting machine."

The welfare of the negro farmers of the state is of vital importance to the prosperity of Georgians generally and it is gratifying to learn of the progress that they are making in their agricultural activities. The extension service is acting very properly in extending all assistance possible to them.

Honored for Service to Agriculture



Douglas, Ga., Enterprise
August 8, 1940

These four Georgians were presented certificates in Athens at Farm and Home Week in recognition of their eminent services in the agricultural development of the state. Awards were presented by the agricultural units of the University System of Georgia to (top) Walter L. Graefe, Griffin; H. G. Hastings, Atlanta; (Bottom) H. A. Petty, Dawson: and R. M. Stiles, Cartersville.

Economic Shifts Retard Negro Farmer

Profound economic and agricultural changes among Georgia Negro farmers were wrought during 1920 and 1930. As a result, the past decade found wants and aspirations of Negroes far exceeding their ability to produce money enough to gratify their whims during this period.

"The desire for modern dress automobiles, radios and many other semi-luxuries stepped up the need for cash far beyond the ability of the land or the farmer under existing circumstances," P. H. Stone, state Extension Negro Agent, said this week. "This meant that cash crops and the best land received most attention with no emphasis whatsoever on building up poorer land. As a result, despite the efforts of the Extension Service and other agricultural agencies, the live-at-home program was pushed farther and farther into the background, the loss of soil fertility sped up and farm families became less and less self-sustaining."

Then, Stone said, two great "calamities", the crash of 1929 and the "panic" of the early thirties served to wake up the Negro farmers to the realization that the soil was their salvation. With agriculture at a low ebb, the AAA made its appearance to revolutionize farming by limiting the acreage of certain crops, stressing soil building and soil maintenance practices, and advancing grants to farmers complying with prescribed procedure. But best of all it resurrected the live-at-home issue and proved conclusively to both Negro and white farmers that without strict adherence to this program they were beaten before they started.

The following records of Negro farmers as cited by Agent Stone shows the progress made by Negroes through the AAA and live-at-home program.

Manning Sellers, Baxley, has cooperated with the farm program from the beginning and listen to what he has to say: "For the last three years, I have not had to buy a grain of corn or a pound of hay. In fact, I have had a little of this stuff to sell. And in addition, I have more hogs and cows on my farm than ever before. The AAA program has enabled me to do these things because through its provisions I have cut down my cotton and tobacco acreage and have more time and better land to devote to hay, corn and livestock."

Harrison Dowdy, Hull, said, "I hardly know where to begin to tell what the AAA program has done for me. I have got all my land terraced so it won't wash away. I've got two acres of kudzu, and strip cropping is being practiced on my farm. I've got more meat in my smokehouse than ever before and more corn despite the dry season last year."

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Nelson Jackson to Work With Sharecroppers Who Were Evicted Last Winter

ATLANTA, Ga. — Working on a permanent solution for the problems of 82 families of evicted sharecroppers who are stranded on 93 acres of poor farm land about 14 miles from Poplar Bluff, Mo., Nelson C. Jackson, head of the Community Organization department of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, has been loaned for a short period of time during the summer months, to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and the Home Mission's council.

The sensational newspaper publicity about a year ago concerning these families will undoubtedly be recalled. Many types of liberal, civic, and semi-political organizations have tried during the past year to do something without success for these unfortunate victims of maladjusted agricultural economy. It was not until the present combination of religious and social work agencies entered the scene that any real progress was made. The cooperating organizations are working closely with local, state and national authorities.

Along with his associates, Mr. Jackson will attempt to perfect vocational guidance, housing, health and recreational programs for the adults and young people of grade school to high school ages and make recommendations for their permanent rehabilitation.

Mr. Jackson is a graduate of Morehouse college, holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan and is also a graduate of the Atlanta University School of Social Work at which institution he possesses the unique distinction of being the first alumnus employed as a member of the faculty. He was selected for the Poplar Bluff position, chiefly because of his actual experience in working with stranded and migrant Negro populations.

Mr. Jackson was actively engaged for a number of years in many phases of social work, all of which adequately equip him for the special task to which he has been assigned. After graduating from the School of Social Work and before becoming one of its teachers, Mr. Jackson was employed in work with transient groups in Alabama under federal auspices, and in New Jersey, under state auspices. Two of his reports concerning migrant Negro groups were published by the state of New Jersey Relief administration.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
May 30, 1940

Georgia Products Go 'Nawth'

Quitman, Ga., May 30.

THESE FARM EXPERTS who have been trying to find markets for Georgia produce won't have to worry about the farmers out around Simmon Hill in Brooks County.

Oscar Thomas dropped in the other day to say he was sorry he had not brought the smoked home-made sausage he promised but he had to fill a big order for sugar-cured breakfast bacon that was going to New York and he had to send some sausage and some hams to Detroit.

Many of the smart girls from the Simmon Hill community have gone Nawth and got jobs as maids and cooks in Yankee families. They don't especially like the Nawth but $12.50 a week is lots of money. However much they like the money they do not forget their country raising and when Oscar's daughters take off their crisp uniforms and go home they like to sit down to a dinner of the kind they had on the farm down in Georgia.

Mary Ann Thomas says filet mignon is all right for them that likes it but what she likes is Brooks County ham. She tells the Simmon Hill kin that folks in the Nawth like string beans cooked without any sidemeat and (Its yellow Indian corn meal, goodness sake to send on some hickory smoked bacon so she can have some beans fit to eat.

So a steady stream of Brooks County hams and bacon and smoked sausage goes to these people in a strange land who weary of the husks of Yankee cooking and long for the succulent, well-seasoned food in their father's house in south Georgia. Oscar Thomas said he had no trouble selling all his surplus farm products. Members of his own family and their friends ordered from him and they told others about the hams and bacon and new orders were coming in.

They write for corn meal and cracklin's, cane syrup and sweet potatoes. In the fall sugarcane must be shipped to them so they can peel it and chew it and think of south Georgia. Mary Ann writes that her miss serves funny little dabs of smoked fish which she calls hoss doves and does she wish she could go to another good fish fry out on the Piscola Creek. Well, anyway, send on some good grub from home and she will try to get along. And don't forget some fresh corn meal, she writes, these folks up here have what they call meal and it ain't fit to Mary Ann, and the Yankees don't know any better).

Mary Ann didn't know it, but the late Senator W. S. West, of Valdosta, used to take a bag of grits and one of corn meal every time he went to New York. He was always hopeful that he would be able to show Oscar, the famous chef at the old Waldorf-Astoria, how to prepare them but he never did.

So this is why the colored farmers in Brooks County, around Simmon Hill, have no trouble finding a market for their produce. Georgia Negroes in New York and Pittsburgh and Detroit spend some of the good wages they get for Georgia yams and hog meat.

In the little backyard gardens in Detroit and Pittsburgh the colored people have patches of collard greens to cook with the sidemeat although Mary Ann wrote that some of the Southern white people, also longing for the fleshpots back home, had been coming around and buying the greens and that Georgia collards were so scarce it was a plumb hardship.

She said that spinach her white folks liked so well just simply could not stand up properly to a good piece of sidemeat; it was a kind of greens that did not have much to them, certainly not to be compared with Georgia collards.

Negro Farmer Turns Shucks Into Valuable Income Source

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
September 27, 1940

By M. C. LASSETER
[Telegraph Correspondent]

ROCHELLE, Sept. 26.—Shucks to some people is nothing more than an expression of disgust. But to General Grant, Wilcox county Negro farmer, it is the source of an added income to his farming activities.

All corn shucks are carefully put away and at odd times are made into rugs, baskets, horse collars, chair bottoms, and cushions.

Oxen for Horses

General also makes chairs and s[illegible] out of willow limbs, and [illegible] have bottoms fashion[illegible] shucks. His wife helps him s[illegible] them.

Grant operates a two-horse farm, except that his "horses" are oxen, one weighs 1,450 pounds, the other tips the scales at 1,240 pounds.

This season he has marketed one and one-half acres of tobacco, and has realized $118 for his crop. His other crops consist of 10 1-2 acres of cotton, 35 acres of corn, that he says will pull 200 bushels.

Canned Foodstuffs

There are 5 2-10 acres of peanuts, that will produce three tons, six acres of peas, one acre of sugar cane, one-half acre of collards, and three acres of potatoes and a sufficient supply of meat for the year.

General explains that he and his wife have canned necessary vegetables and fruits to take them through the winter, and has a new fall garden planted for fresh vegetables, with some to sell.

He is also a preacher, and often fills the pulpit in neighborhood churches. And is a member of the Missionary Baptist church, he says.



EATS CORN STALKS—This is the horn worm which Judson Stokes, 73-year-old Negro "vegetable man" at Clark University, says ate up his corn stalks.

Corn Damage Here Attributed To Horn Worm

'Vegetable Man' Not Fully Convinced by Entomologist.

By LEE ROGERS.

The old Negro grabbed off his battered hat, baring a gray head. He had a most arresting twinkle in his eye—and a bottle with a funny looking worm in his hand.

"Boss, man, I've got the worm the government's been trying to find. It's done eat up all my corn crop nearly and I found it after those government men came out looking for it the other day. I know it because I used to live out west and we had it out there.

"We worked hard out west and learned a little bit about killing these things. Now if I've got it here first before any of those government men, I want to show 'em this old Negro is a little smarter than they give us credit for being."

Judson Stokes, 73 years of age, was the speaker. They call him the "vegetable man" out at Clark University where he runs the vegetable garden.

"Use Our Heads."

"Boss, man, if I know something they don't know, I'd like to get a little money for it. See we westerners use our heads," he laughed with his whole body.

Judson went over to the state entomology department with his worm. They told him it wasn't what they were looking for. They wanted the Japanese beetle. They showed him one.

"Boss, man, you show is smart. You've got me with that one. I've never done seen one of these."

They described how his worm functioned. How it bored into the corn stalk. They told him it was found in Illinois but down here ate leaves off the trees, seldom bothered corn.

"You're right about how it works, bossman. But that worm done destroyed all my corn except a few stalks—anway."

They told him his worm was a horn worm and Judson left.

He wasn't convinced, though.

"I haven't got much learning, but that worm destroyed my corn. Anyway if it feeds on leaves why would it be boring into the ground?"

Born in Decatur.

Judson was born in Decatur, but as a young Negro some "Yankees" found him to be a most excellent farmer and took him to "Yankee country" with them to oversee their farms. They took him on a boat trip to Mexico once.

"I always wanted to go to England with them, but then there's no Negroes there—just Yankees," the old Negro said. "Out west (he called Illinois the west) a fellow is just what he makes of himself. The Yankees help us. Down south if a white man helps a Negro he soon finds the Negro helping himself in his chicken coop."

"I've done told the young southern Negroes that the best place for them was in Africa. That's where they come from and the Good Book says all races will go back to their native land before the end of the world."

Uncle Judson has got a scientific bucket treatment for growing multi-eared corn. He wants to try it out in Mississippi before he dies.

Dublin, Ga., Citizen
August 29, 1940

ECONOMIC CHANGES RETARD PROGRESS OF NEGRO FARMERS

T28

Profound economic and agricultural changes among Georgia Negro farmers were wrought during 1920 and 1930. As a result, the past decade found wants and aspirations of Negroes far exceeding their ability to produce money enough to gratify their whims during this period.

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Ellis Green, a truck farmer in Chatham County, says he spent twice as much on fertilizer before the AAA came along to keep his vegetable production at a certain point. But now with the program encouraging him to plant summer and winter legumes he is actually growing more vegetables at a reduced crop through increased fertility of his soil as a result of the soil building practices.

Farmer's Plight

Editor The Telegraph:

If my memory be not faulty it was in 1931 that a Negro fireman on the Central of Georgia railroad got into financial trouble. The Telegraph, hearing about it, brought the matter into the open. This Negro was indebted to some loan people $700, and they were standing by taking his pay check leaving nothing for the Negro's large family to live upon.

It was brought out in court that this Negro was drawing $240 per month—this for about half [farm time] effort.

Inasmuch as over 85 per cent of Central of Georgia revenues are derived from farm products in some form, then it is plainly evident that this Negro fireman was drawing over 20 times more than the individual members of the average farmer's family, for these farm folk were paying 85 per cent of the Negro's salary.

In 1932 FDR pledged himself to save the forgotten man. So he won! Who was the forgotten man? The man who was carrying the load and getting only a kick in the pants out of it? Did FDR keep his promise? He found the American farmer broke. Hoover had mortgaged over 80 per cent of the farms, south and west, and 80 per cent of the small homes in towns to pay off our war debt. FDR has trebled our national debt, thereby trebling the farmers' load. And today the farmer is trebly broke. He doesn't own his home any more. There is nothing before him but the open road. The past is as a hideous nightmare — the future blacker than a billion hells!

WATSON BURNETTE.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
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JONES FARM CREDIT BILL

House Committee Approves Jones Farm Loan Bill

Post 5-8-40
Washington
Daily News

The House Agriculture Committee yesterday approved the Jones farm-credit bill to aid in reduction of interest rates paid by farm borrowers. The vote was unanimous.

Under the bill the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation is authorized to refinance its present holdings of Land Bank bonds at a rate not to exceed by more than ¼ of 1 per cent the rate on the corporation's Government-guararteed bonds. The The coarporation would purchase new issues of Land Bank bonds on the same basis.

Report Tenants Forced To Give Up AAA Checks

Daily World
6/10/40
Atlanta Ga

NATCHITOCHES, La.—(By Leon Lewis for ANP)—As a result of findings of Miss Margery Dallett, acting secretary of the Louisiana Farmers' union, revelations of serious implications and threats of physical injury to force tenant farmers to sign away their 1939 AAA checks around the Bermuda area in Natchitoches Parish, were reported this week.

Of the more than a dozen farmers interviewed, not one had received his AAA checks for 1939 Miss Dallett disclosed. The community is predominantly Negro each dealing with commissaries and ignorant of his accounts. After months of investigation Miss Dallett unearthed a startling incident in the case of force being used to force a tenant to sign away his check. Charles Robinson was threatened at the point of a knife in the office of the parish administrative assistant by Sam Tobin, white commissary owner, last November to force him to sign over his check to the commissary owner.

Robinson is a tenant on the plantation of Estelle Cockfield in Natchitoches and had been given the privilege to purchase groceries and household supplies from the commissary of Tobin, who is an in-law relative of the plantation owner....Robinson said that he owed the owner for the advances and had decided to stay on the plantation another year until he was able to pay his indebtedness. She had apparently agreed to this and was willing to wait.

But as he was receiving his AAA check in the administrator's office, Tobin came from behind and shouted that Robinson owed him money, simultaneously putting the point of a knife in his back in an attempt to force the tenant to pay him then and there by signing over the check to him.

Being the only Negro in the office and fearing being cut by the irate white man, Robinson signed over his check to Tobin. The woman plantation owner was not able to offset the threatening move on the part of Tobin.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

LOUISIANA

PROBE REVEALS TENANTS FORCED TO GIVE UP 1939 AAA CHECKS

See

By LEON LEWIS

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Call 6/14/40
Kansas City, Mo.

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Forced to Submit

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Release Negro Farm Leader

Savannah Tribune
Savannah Ga

ARRESTED ON FRAMED UP CHARGE

9-5-40

Washington, Sept. 2 (CNA)—An attempted lynch frame-up of Clinton Clark, Negro organizer of the Louisiana Farmer's Union, has been thwarted, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties annpunced here this week.

Clark, who was threatened with lynching after his arrest in Natchitoches Parish July 27, has been released and given safe conduct across the border to Texas.

Ten charges were placed against him alleging that he had collected funds for the union under false pretense. He was an accredited officer of the union and empowered to collect dues for the union. Officials of the union declared that Clark's record was clear and that the real reason for his arrest was that he had been successful in organizing the impoverished farmers of Natchitoches Parish.

Answering an appeal from the Louisiana Farmers' Union for aid, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties sent two delegates to the Civil Liberties Unit of the Department of Justice together with representatives of the National Negro Congress and the Southern Negro Youth Congress. The delegation requested that the department take steps to secure Clark's release and to assure him safe conduct out of Natchitoches Parish.

The Federation was informed the next day of a report from the Attorney General's office in Louisiana that clark had been released on personal bond and taken safely to Texas.

Upon hearing the Clark's release the Federation declared that its "success in this case is new evidence of the value of an organization which can coordinate the activities of farm church, labor, racial, fraternal and civic groups in defense of civil liberties in the United States."

The release of Clark is regarded as a tremendous victory not only for the farmers of Louisiana but for farmers thru out the south who are now being subjected to an unprecedented wave of violence and intimidation.

...pers Parley Asks Greater U. S. Aid

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. (CNA) —Greater assistance by the federal government to agricultural workers of the South was urged by the State convention here of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, a CIO affiliate. The Convention as attended by 2,500 Negro and white sharecroppers and farm laborer delegates.

The Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, Negro union leader of the Missouri Agricultural Workers Council, stated in his annual report that as a result of the work of the union. "The government has made countless surveys in our country which demonstrated he needless poverty and misery rampant among our people," Whitfield said. In the past the government has done some good things for us but now they seem to be shadow boxing and getting nowhere."

Other speakers included E. L. Hughes, of Morley, Missouri; William R. Fisher of Poplar Bluff, Mrs. Whitfield, president of the women's Auxiliaries in Missouri, and fraternal delegates from the St. Louis Urban League, American Youth Congress and the United Student Peace Committee.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

NATIONAL COTTON PICKING CHAMPIONSHIP

Cotton Picking Trials

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark.—(AP)—Cotton pickers, here's your opportunity! The National Cotton Picking Associcivic and business leaders here, will conduct a "national cotton picking championship" contest next fall. The winner will be awarded $1,000. President Roscoe Crafton said the association would have a 100-acre field especially prepared and cultivated for the contest, tentatively set for Oct. 1.

CONDITION OF

Greensboro, N. C., Record
January 19, 1940

Farm Problems Considered By Negro Leaders

Agricultural Gathering Is Being Held At A. and T. College

Industrial and agricultural leaders, farmers and workers from all points of the state were on hand at A. and T. college Friday morning as the first state-wide negro farmers and agricultural meeting and vocational conference held its initial session. The agricultural meeting was held in Dudley auditorium and the vocational meeting was held in the student assembly in Alexander Graham vocational building.

The theme of both meetings was centered around "Vocational and Industrial Opportunities for Young Negro Men".

The meetings are scheduled to last throughout the day and are a part of the general dedication of the new Alexander Graham vocational building and Richard B. Harrison auditorium. Friday afternoon the farmers and vocational men met in joint session with principal addresses by President M. F. Whittaker, of South Carolina State college; J. P. Davis, negro representative of the AAA service; Cornelius King, of the farm credit administration, and Avon Collins, superintendent of the Langston Terrace Housing project, Washington.

At the morning sessions, Dean J. M. Marteena, of the school of mechanic arts, presided over the vocational conference, and S. B. Simmons, state supervisor of vocational agriculture for negroes, presided over the farmers and agricultural workers meeting.

J. W. Mitchell, state director of negro farm agents, introduced the theme at the agricultural meeting. He was followed by W. C. Davenport, Mecklenburg county farm agent; J. L. Bolden, teacher of vocational agriculture, Warren county training school; A. G. Thompson, Robeson county farmer, and Dr. W. L. Kennedy, of the local college faculty, who spoke on "Discovering Farming Opportunities for Young Men".

The important problem of placing and establishing young negro men in farming was ably analyzed by S. C. Anderson, of Rocky Point, who was the state delegate to the American Vocational Association meeting at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in December, and S. T. Brooks, Robeson county farm agents.

"Jobs for Rural Young Men" was the topic of a special paper by C. E. Dean, professor of agricultural education.

Those who led discussions were G. L. Cheek, Warren county; T. M. Garrett, Bertie county; Nathaniel Williams, Guilford county farmer; Tom Watkins, Orange county farmer; Jaames Lawson, Craven county farmer, and Havard Jones, A. and T. college student.

It was decided that soil improvement, side line enterprises such as pork and poultry production, modern machinery methods of cultivation, dairying, and co-operatives offer a direct challenge to the rural youth. With the co-operation of government agencies specifically set up to aid the rural youth, the agricultural field abounds with a wealth of opportunity for the young man, it was said.

Dean J. M. Marteena introduced the theme at the vocational conference. He was followed by F. A. Mayfield who discussed "Problems Encountered in Business and Industry". Other speakers at the vocational conference were Leon Bailey, A. and T. college student, who spoke on "The Status of the Negro in Industry"; C. I. Sawyer, CCC educational advisor, who spoke on "Vocational Guidance in the Civilian Conservation Corps"; and Charles L. Cooper, professor of industrial education, who spoke on "Importance of Counseling in Our School Program".

It was brought out as the main current of the vocational meeting that negro education must take on a new idea toward industry, placing emphasis preparing youth for skilled jobs. A system of apprenticeship in industrial work must be found for the negro youth now being graduated from the colleges, it was said.

All the delegates were unanimous in holding that education must keep up with new developments in industry and teach these new techniques to the youth of today.

Reidsville, N. C. Review
March 13, 1940

Negro Farmers To Enter 3 Contests

Negro farmers throughout the county are being notified concerning three contests that will be sponsored by the Negro Extension office as a means to support the "Live a Home Program" in the county. One of the outstanding problems this year will be to get the farmers to plant and grow sufficient food and feed to maintain the family and livestock. Below is a copy of the letter that is being mailed to farmers throughout the county:

Dear Farmer:

This is to call your attention to the fact that this year three contests will be sponsored by our office. They are as follows: 1—Garden contest; 2—Fat Hog contest; 3—Corn contest.

Those who carry out a triple-A plan and have a good garden in addition, may get a credit of $1.50 for the garden. 1—The garden shall be protected from poultry and the other animals. 2—The home garden shall not consist of not less than 1-10 acre per person and planted in one place. 3—A minimum of 10 different vegetables shall be grown during the year. Irish and Sweet potatoes and cornfield beans may be grown outside of the garden. It is recommended that 3 or 4 different vegetables shall be growing in the garden for at least 3 months of the year, and not more than 1-4 of the garden shall be devoted to any one vegetable.

The Fat Hog project will be judged on flat basis. That is the farmer having the largest hog will be awarded a prize. Farmers are urged to have at least two hogs in order to enter this contest.

The Corn contest will be judged on the average basis. That is the farmer may have at least 3 or 4 acres and the average yield obtained from the number of acres will be determined. In some instances farmers only pick out 1 or 2 acres aside from the other cash crop. The farmer getting the largest yield will be the winner.

We are planning a series of meetings in various communities to discuss these contests and other relative farm problems. You can contact me at these meetings concerning the same.

R. L. HANNON,
Negro County Agent.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
March 29, 1940

Rockingham Negro Farm Advisory Board Meets

REIDSVILLE, March 29.—With representatives from farm communities all over the county present, the Rockingham County Negro Farm Advisory board met last night at the office of R. L. Hannon, negro farm agent for this county, in Reidsville.

This was the second meeting of this body since its recent organization. One of the chief functions of last night's meeting was to plan a county-wide farm tour. Other matters taken up in discussion included projects for improving the status of young people on the farms of this county.

Wilmington N. C. News
April 12, 1940

NEGROES TO TOUR INVERSHIEL FARMS

State College Extension Service To Sponsor Pender County Event

In order to give the negro farmers and those engaged in carrying on the agricultural program among negroes under the Extension service in North Carolina as many advantages as possible of improving their scope, plans have been perfected whereby a one-day tour will be made to Invershiel Farms in Pender county Tuesday, April 16. Circular letters have been mailed out to all negro Extension workers to that effect, urging they bring along as many farmers as can be encouraged to make the trip. This announcement was made by John W. Mitchell, negro state agent of the North Carolina Extension service.

Invershiel Farms are owned by Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington, and located near Burgaw in Pender county, about five miles south of Rocky Point.

Particular interest to those who will make the trip will be the large number of acres planted to varied pasture grasses for grazing purposes, and to visit the livestock. C. M. Brickhouse, district agent for the Southeastern district, will speak to the group.

Plans are to assemble at the Pender County Training school in Rocky Point and be ready to start on the tour at 11 a. m. The tour will end in time for everyone to reach his destination before dark.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
May 31, 1940

15 NEGRO FARMERS SEE FARM PROJECT

T. A. Hamme In Charge Of Local Delegation Visiting In Franklinton

Fifteen Durham county negro farmers visited Franklinton county farm project area Wednesday as one of a series of groups under the direction of T. A. Hamme, Negro county farm agent, studying different methods of conserving soil. In the seven farms visited, local farmers observed terracing, strip farming, meadow drainage, crop rotation, contour tillage and improved pastures as practiced on the experimental projects in Franklinton county.

H. O. Beck, J. C. Justice and Jack Lassiter, of the Neuse river soil conservation district, accompanied the group. The group was composed of Alex Kimbell, Oscar Taylor, Charlie and Otis Day, J. H. Harris, Joe Parker, Lucious Harris, Walter Evans, J. B. Jones, Fred Parker, Maynard Jones, J. L. Moffitt, Charlie Dunnegan, John and James Mack.

The group also observed different legumes sown on poor hills to stop erosion and to build the soil. Lespedeza, lespedeza sericea and kudza were pointed out as especially valuable in this connection.

Greensboro, N. C., News
June 17, 1940

NEGRO FARM SURVEY IS MADE IN COUNTY

Average Owner Purchases Land When Hs Is Between 25 and 35 Years Old.

In a recent survey of 46 negro-owned farms the average negro farmer among the owner class was found to possess 42.6 acres of land, according to the findings in Brown Summit ,Goshen, Florence and Sedalia communities, which represent four of the largest negro-populated communities of Guilford county.

Results of the survey were compiled by C. E. Dean, associate professor of agricultural education at A. and T. college here.

The farms have been in possession of the present owners an average of 20.77 years. The average farmer is 51.9 years of age; therefore, the purchase must have been made when he was between 25 and 35 years of age. However, no farmers were found owning land less than 35 years of age. Most farmers who become farm owners purchase their farms when they are approximately 35 years or less, and very few after they are 40 years of age.

In spite of the fact that these farmers have owned land this long period, less than 50 per cent of them have made plans for their farms to remain in the families after they become disabled or die. Data shows that a number of farms are lost each year as a result of the passing of family heads when no one is prepared to take charge of the homestead.

The size of family of the negro group is a little above the average, which is 5.76 children per family, but the more striking problem is that only 3.01 of these children are still on the average farm. This change in population from the rural to urban area perhaps means that new problems have been added to the city's problems and this trend may continue to the extent that our farms may not be sufficiently populated to carry on an efficient program of farming. However, since there are still 3.01 instead of 5.76 children on the average farm per family, there is even a greater opportunity for this small group to make more efficient use of the 42 acre farm and perhaps add more land to meet future needs as the three members of the family grow up and later become land owners.

At present New Farmers of America training, which is a part of the vocational agricultural program, is offered in a limited way at the training centers, but an enlarged and more constructive program is needed and the same can be provided when full programs of home economics and vocational agriculture are made available in the larger communities of the country, Dean said.

The negro farmers of these four communities within the past 10 years have purchased 41 mules, 12 horses, 54 cows, and 24 brood sows.

Roxboro, N. C. Courier
June 20, 1940

Home-Cured Meat Show Saturday

Negro Contest Will Be Held In Walker Building Here

The home-cured meat show planned for negro farmers and farm women of the county for Saturday will be held in the L. K. Walker building on Main Street rather than in the Negro Rural Center, as first announced, C. J. Ford, negro county agent, said today. "The owner", Ford said, "was glad to cooperate with us in permitting the use of his building for this purpose".

Ford said that "fine cooperation" is being received from farmers, merchants, newspapermen, ministers and others to make "this one of the big events of the year". Community leaders, he added, are collecting meats in their respective communities to bring here Friday morning to be put on exhibition.

"All negro farmers", Ford's statement today continued by saying, "are urged to bring whatever meat they have of the ham, shoulder and side class. Some say it is not cut right, but let us leave that to the judges, for what we may think is wrong, the judges may pick as the best. Let us bring the meat, and let the judges pass on it."

Judging will be done by E. V. Vestal, extension swine specialist of State College, and C. D. Swaffar, of the college meats department, and their decisions will be final. Ford urged all farmers entering the contest to bring their meat not later than 6 o'clock Friday afternoon. He said also that farmers desiring to sell their meat could "talk prices" after the judging had been completed.

Roanoke Rapids, N. C. Herald
June 13, 1940

COUNTY NEGROES SEE WHEAT HARVESTED IN MANY WAYS IN TOUR

On Thursday, June 6, the fourth annual Cooperative Negro Farm Tour was conducted in Halifax County. Negro farmers growing wheat planned with D. J. Knight, Negro county agent, a tour that took participants on a 124 mile itinerary. Sixteen farms were visited where wheat was seen grown on many different soil types, response of the crop to different kinds of fertilizers. Wheat grown behind lespedeza, cowpeas, peanuts, soybeans, corn and cotton was also noted. Distinguished agricultural workers attended the tour.

Though there are more than 100 Negro farmers now growing wheat for the first time, the tour was to encourage more farmers to grow the crop in developing a better live-at-home program. Beside seeing wheat demonstrations, the tourists saw various methods of harvesting and threshing the grain from the 1840 cradle to the combine harvester-thresher.

They saw and used the cradle, observed a mower attachment that bunches the grain, a grain threshing machine, a combine which harvests and threshes ripe grain in one operation. A home-made beater-thresher constructed of coarse screen wire and poles was seen in operation. The farmer who owns the outfit said that he can thresh up to 25 bushels of wheat per day.

John W. Goodman, Assistant Director of the State Extension Service, County Agent, W. O. Davis and Negro District Agent, J. W. Jeffries followed the entire six and half hour tour. They assisted in calculating the yield per acre of each crop visited; they examined the grain and exploited the fields.

A free dinner was served to more than 100 persons assembled at Faulcon's picnic grounds near Roper Springs when the tour was completed. John Coley, Assistant Rural Rehabilitation Supervisor, gave an interesting address about the F.S.A. Community Service Program. Goodman made some encouraging remarks relative to farm grown products and praised the farmers for growing wheat. Davis announced the cotton mopping demonstrations scheduled in the county. "Have a cow, grow a good garden, and plenty of molasses," was the topic of appeal made by J. W. Jeffries.

Greensboro, N. C., News
June 22, 1940

NEGRO FARMERS PLAN CONTROL DISCUSSIONS

Hall Arranges For Tobacco Meetings In County.

A series of meetings to be conducted among the negro tobacco growers have been arranged according to a report by B. A. Hall, negro county agent.

These meetings will be conducted through co-operation of the negro vocational teachers and negro extension force. Meetings will be conducted in seven communities and will have as their objectives the presentation of facts of the control measures and a clearer understanding in the minds of the negro grower on the control question.

The meetings will be held as follows: Sedalia, 7:30 o'clock, June 24; Gibsonville, 8 o'clock, June 25; Florence, 8 o'clock, June 26; Summerfield, Brown Summit and Goshen, 8 o'clock, June 27; Collins Grove, 8 o'clock, June 28.

Greensboro, N. C., News
June 19, 1940

NEGRO FARM TEACHERS OPEN MEETING TODAY

Conference At A. and T. College to Attract About 75 Vocational Instructors.

The statewide conference for negro teachers of vocational agriculture will begin at 9 o'clock this morning in the lecture room of Alexander Graham hall at A. and T. college. The conference will continue through Friday, with about 75 agricultural teachers expected to participate.

At the opening session welcome greetings will be brought by President F. D. Bluford and conference objectives will be brought by Roy Thomas, state director of agricultural education. The principal address for the morning session will be delivered by Dr. Clarence Poe, Raleigh, editor of the Progressive Farmer magazine, on "Balanced Prosperity".

A discussion of the balanced prosperity program will be led by S. B. Simmons, state supervisor of vocational agriculture for negroes.

At the afternoon session a panel discussion will occupy the spotlight, subject being, "In What Ways Should the Agricultural College Curricula be Modified With the Thought of Turning Out a Strong Agriculture Teacher?" Participating in this panel will be Prof. C. E. Dean, A. and T. college, chairman. Dean J. C. McLaughlin, Prof. W. T. Johnson of the A. and T. college faculty, and B. F. Garrett, B. T. Elliott, Garland Bass, Molton Zachary, and Alexander Blaine, representing teachers in the field.

The first day sessions will close with a special business meeting of the teacher group. R. E. Fitzgerald state president of the vocational agriculture teachers conference will preside over all sessions.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
September 28, 1940

NEGROES AND COWS.

Only 412 of the more than 7,000 cows in Mecklenburg county, according to the report of the tax listers, are owned by the Negro population.

This is just about as sorry a showing for the colored race as for the whites.

We venture the opinion that multitudes of Negroes in this county who figure themselves unable financially to own and keep up a cow have plenty of hounds and cats hanging around their cabins.

Which absurdity is by no means confined to the Negroes either of Mecklenburg county or the State of North Carolina.

Farmers Hit By Roosevelt Budget

BY OTIS NATION

GRAPES of WRATH, now showing in our theatres, is a picture which has called forth much indignation from high quarters which might be held responsible for the tenant farmer and migratory-worker conditions so honestly and sincerely portrayed in Steinbeck's novel. A Detroit doctor wrote Governor Phillips deploring such conditions, and the Governor jumped all over him in such a huff that everyone decided the shoe must fit.

In California conditions are bad too, the Governor said, hoping to divert our attention. An FSA spokesman tells us that there are "Oakies by the thousands in the East" whose struggle against poverty, starvation, disease, and miserable housing is as heart-rending as it is here in Oklahoma.

Now what does President Roosevelt propose to do to remedy this national crisis in agriculture?

The President's budget calls for a slash of $450,000,000 in farm appropriations. The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, which spent more than $100,000,000 in buying up farm surpluses last year ,and whose food stamp plan promised to raise the food buying power of relief clients even more this year, is wiped out. The FSA's tenant purchase plan, mortgage and rehabilitation loans, so vital in giving working farmers mortgage relief, are wiped out entirely. (42 percent of those who live in Oklahoma are tenant-farmers. What will happen to them?)

Perhaps the farmers were cut out in favor of the unemployed? No, WPA was cut even more seriously, $477,000,000, leaving a total of only one billion dollars to care for the growing number of unemployed. (Secretary Perkins reports 1,600,000 more jobless in January and her figures did not include agricultural unemployment.)

Where is the money going to?

The answer is to be found in the $491,000,000 increase in appropriations for battleships, armaments and shipping subsidies, which the budget takes out of the pockets of the unemployed and the impoverished farmers and invests in war.

The farmer is told that a "war boom" is on its way. The WALL STREET JOURNAL on February 13th said, "Former President Hoover in an interview told the nation to get set for a farm boom in agricultural production as a result of the war in Europe." But farmers see through this blood-bait pretty clearly by now. The European war, according to the Department of Agriculture, has DIMINISHED (not increased) the export of farm products. The comedown of industrial production in the last month or so, the cuts in WPA and relief, mean a DECREASE (not an increase) in the farmers' market. So far the only war order the American farmer has received is for $11,000 worth of dried beans.

The Oklahoma Tenant Farmers Union (CIO) feels that now is the time to expand the assistance given to farmers, not to cut it; there must be more FSA rehabilitation not less. At its best Roosevelt's farm program was only an extension of Republican subsidies; only those who owned the biggest farms received any sizeable benefit. For instance, Metropolitan Life Insurance (a dirt farmer!) was the biggest single beneficiary of the 1937 AAA program, receiving $257,095, tenants, sharecroppers, farmers whose small holdings were mortgage-ridden, have received only driblets of grudging assistance.

If the New Deal has abandoned farm assistance, American farmers must be quick to make it plain that they haven't. If President Roosevelt plans to run our economy on foreign war adventures the farmers of Oklahoma need to make it clear that they learned their lesson from the last war.

The Oklahoma Tenant Farmers Union (CIO), the Farmers Union, the Congress of Industrial Organization—people's organizations all over the country—are demanding that President Roosevelt's "economy" budget be changed. Speaking in behalf of the farm tenant and stamp plan programs, W. M. Thatcher, legislative representative of the Farmers Union says: "These two programs mean much more to our unfortunate and loyal American subjects than a couple of battleships."

"The people of this country," says the 1940 Legislative Program of the CIO, "whenever the occasion has presented itself, have strongly and pointedly demonstrated their desire to continue and extend the gains and benefits of the social legislation enacted during the past few years. There can be no retreat now, rather there must be a steady forward march to extend the social and economic program of the nation."

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITIONS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
March 22, 1940

NEGROES TO SEE FILM ON FARMING EARLY IN APRIL

Showing of Clemson College Extension service pictures for negro farmers in Spartanburg county has been scheduled in a number of communities during the first week of April, W. C. Bunch, county negro agricultural agent, announced yesterday.

The pictures, the agent said, will be shown in four communities and there will be no admission price, all negro farmers being invited.

The following schedule has been arranged: Monday night, April 1 7:30 o'clock, Brooklyn church on the Fingerville-Chesnee highway; Tuesday night, April 2, 7:30 o'clock, New Bedford church in the New Pros-

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
April 1, 1940

FARM FILMS TO BE SHOWN THIS WEEK IN COUNTY

Clemson college extension service films will be shown this week to negro farmers of Spartanburg county.

A series of nightly programs, beginning at 7:30 o'clock, are scheduled during the week at various communities in the county, according to W. C. Bunch, negro agricultural agent for the county. All negro farmers of the county are urged to attend one of these sessions.

Following is the schedule: Tonight, Brooklyn church, near Chesnee; Tuesday, Bedford church of the New Prospect community; Wednesday, Mt. Pilgrim church in Cannon school community; Thursday Pleasant Fall school of the Disputania community.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Tele
July 14, 1940

Anderson County Negro Farmer Sets Mark For Others To Shoot At



Independent Tribune
7-14-40

On a twenty-seven acre farm almost within the town limits of Pendleton lives a model Negro farmer. He is "Uncle" William Washington, who holds the distinction of having bought only sixty cents worth of fatback within the past thirty years. And that wasn't because he didn't have hogs. The weather was too hot to kill them. Pictured above is a striking picture of "Uncle" William and his faithful mule headed home after a day in the fields. The lower picture shows his well-kept home. His wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Daphne Virginia, are standing at the gate. (Independent Photos.)

Anderson, S.C.



Sixty Cents Worth Of Fatback

One hot morning late in the fall of 1930, Eleanor Washington walked out into the field where her husband was picking cotton. "William," she said, "there ain't a speck of fatback left in the house. I want to boil a pot."

Now William Washington wasn't the sort of Negro farmer who was accustomed to buying fatback. He raised his own meat. Even as his wife spoke, he could hear a 300-pound hog grunting out in the lot. But the fall of 1930 was unusually mild. Those farmers who killed when the first cold snap came lost their meat. William Washington wasn't taking any chances with his hog killing, even if he did run out of fatback.

That's why "Uncle" William went to Pendleton and bought thirty cents worth of fatback. Two weeks later, he returned and bought another thirty cents worth. Then the weather turned cold. "Uncle" William killed the big hog and bought no more fatback. Sixty cents was all he spent.

Sixty cents worth of fatback—sixty cents worth of fatback in thirty years, that's "Uncle" William's record as a live-at-home farmer.

Forty-four years ago, "Uncle" Williams' first wife inherited seven acres almost within the town limits of Pendleton, but the land was heavily mortgaged. "Uncle" William paid off the mortgage and became a farmer in his own right. In 1918, on the advise of the late M. M. Hunter, he purchased additional acreage, increasing his land holdings to twenty-seven acres.

Twenty-seven acres isn't a large farm, but it's large enough for "Uncle" William. He's 72 years old now. When a man reaches that age, he can't expect to operate a big plantation, especially if he intends to do most of the work himself. Furthermore, "Uncle" William is satisfied with twenty-seven acres. It's his. There's no mortgage on it, and in return for the labor he puts out, the land returns him a generous living.

For a cash crop, "Uncle" William grows cotton. But he isn't "cotton crazy." He grows oats and corn for his cattle; grows potatoes, peanuts, popcorn, broom corn, molasses cane, peas, watermelons and cantaloupes; also everything that's supposed to be in a kitchen garden.

He grows fruit, too: pears, apples, plums, peaches, figs, cherries and scuppernongs. There is a walnut tree on his place. A pecan tree, too. And out in the barnyard, you'll find one mule, two cows, three shoats and plenty of chickens.

"Uncle" William lives in a two-story house painted white. All of the outhouses are painted white; are in an excellent state of repair. His wife beautifies the place with flowers. She also works the kitchen garden. They have two children, but only one lives at home. The daughter teaches school at New Light. A son is a sergeant in the United States army. He enlisted twenty-seven years ago and expects to retire on a pension in 1943.

When "Uncle" William enlarged his farm in 1918, the land wasn't much. "I could stand in my front door and see big red gullies running through the field right over there," he recalled last week when visited by a representative of The Independent. "I have improved my land have tried to make every foot of suitable for producing somethir worth while."

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Greenville S. C. News
September 30, 1940

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Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
September 24, 1940

Negro Farmers Visit Coker's

A group of Sumter county negro farmers made a trip to Hartsville, S. C., September 19, to see Coker's pedigreed seed farm. Upon arrival in Hartsville the farmers called at the office of the Coker Seed Company and registered. After registering we went to the dairy barn. There we saw a very fine herd of dairy cows. After viewing the cows we were taken to the farm by Mrs. Robert R. Coker where we were given a demonstration as to the method of cotton breeding. After which we were shown a field of fine peavine, averaging about two feet in height which he stated would be turned under for soil building. Mr. Coker then explained how we might build up the soil thereby assuring a high yield per acre at a low cost. He also showed us a field where a row to row test of wilt-resistant and non-wilt resistant cotton was made. This test was made on land subject to wilt. It was pointed out to us how that non-wilt resistant cotton will not grow on land subject to wilt, for most of the cotton from non-wilt resistant seed died. This, therefore, means that wilt resistant seed should be planted on land subject to wilt.

Before returning to Sumter the picture of the group was taken in a cotton field.

The farmers expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the information which they received.

Forty three farmers went on this tour, and their names are as follows:

Thomas Sanders, Sidney McClary, Julius Davis, E. J. Thompson, Logan Durant, D. V. Ragins, W. M. Wright, Henry Sanders, Joe McMillan;

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AGRIC LTURE - 1940
CONDITIONS OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
September 26, 1940

HELP THE FARMER AND HELP AIKEN

The Standard and Review has advocated from time to time closer cooperation between the businessmen of Aiken and the farmers in this county. We feel that the best interests of this community can be served by encouaging farmers in their efforts, and to provide a ready market for their products. At the present time an effort is being made to have Aiken county farmers market their cotton in Aiken.

Crop money is usually spent where it is obtained. Cattle and hogs sold on other markets than Aiken, cotton and other crops disposed of outside of Aiken, does not help business like the sales would, if made here at home. It is vitally important that the merchants and other civic leaders formulate some constructive and definite plan of action, and give of their time and best efforts to improve Aiken as a trading center, where farm families will be glad to come, sell their farm products and in turn spend this money in local channels of trade.

Small farmers cannot profitably visit distant markets to dispose of small quantities of produce, they must be able to make quick cash sales close to home, and avoid loss of time and high transportation costs, which eat up the profits of their labor. Thrift and industry pay dividends for many small farmers, but in most cases the market for their products is nearby, and a fair price is assured for what they have to sell. This is what Aiken business interests should provide, as a foundation for trade betterment and future prosperity is this community.

Aiken is tourist minded, but we must not lack of vision, and overlook the possibilities of business improvement in going after industrial payrolls and farm trade. The Walterboro Press Standard recently published an editorial about what small farmers were doing in that territory and what was being accomplished in helping the farmers in that area to produce more and better livestock and farm produce to sell in Walterboro.

The Press and Standard editorial follows: "It is easy to make a living and to make money on a farm if proper thrift and energy are used. It does not take much capital except a supply of industry and thrift. Recently our attention has been called to outstanding examples of success achieved on small farms in the county. The owners of these farms are financially independent and are examples of what can be done by many others similarly equipped with a desire to succeed and the energy to overcome inertia and indifference. It has been said that a thrifty people—were they Hollanders?—said that if a living could not be made on 10 acres they would sell five of the acres and they knew then they could live on the other five. The farmer usually forgets that there are many things used and consumed on the farm for which no money is required which costs the salaried worker all his earnings. Fuel, water, vegetables, eggs, poultry, milk, staple foods, such as grist, rice, meat, etc. The most independent life, also, is that of the farmer on the farm.

Recently our attention has been called to several outstanding examples of Colleton county farmers who are making good on their farms, and are living in financial security. Last week we wrote of a visit to the farm of H. M. Kinsley in upper Colleton. He is making a success, together with his brother, Will, on their farms.

This week we have a story on another page, of success. H. A. O'Quinn, of the Peniel section is making with peanuts as a base. We wish that our readers would carefully study what Mr. O'Quinn is doing with the peanut, not as Dr. Carver of Tuskagee, but as a thrifty farmer.

Another small farmer is making a specialty of selling okra, and for several months he sells to the stores in Walterboro. 500 pound of okra. Lee Chassereau and Mrs. Chassereau are making a living also on a very few acres of land growing vegetables, turnips, collards, tomatoes, beans. and other fall and spring vegetables.

What these small farmers are doing dozens of others can do. May we refer to what is being accomplished at the woman's club market in Walterboro by farm women from many sections of the county. These things we think should be fostered by every means and thus make as many financially successful as possible. A larger club market should be built. May we urge that the utmost endeavor be put forward to accomplish this, and to help farmers produce more and better livestock to sell at the market."

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
February 14, 1940

Milk Goats Increasing

Beef cattle shows, dairy cattle shows, sheep, poultry, horse and mule shows now have a rival for public interest in milk-goat shows. The American Society of Goat Breeders is determined to place the milk goat in the position it deserves among other useful farm animals.

The association quotes Hippocrates, the father of medicine, as authority for the value of goat's milk in the treatment of tubercular patients. Long before the cow became the greatest of milk producing animals the ancient Greek suggested this treatment for those suffering with tuberculosis: "Let them live in high altitudes, drink goat's milk and take sun baths."

In Proverbs the association finds the following endorsement: "Thou shalt have goat's milk for thy food, for the food of thy household and for the maintenance of thy maidens."

Many royally bred milk goats have been imported by Americans from Switzerland Italy and Mediterranean countries and they give much more milk, considering their weight and the quantity of feed consumed, than any breed of milk cattle. It is not generally known that with comparatively small feed consumption many goats produce as much as one and one-half gallons of milk a day.

Goat dairies are said to be increasing in many states and owners find ready sales for the milk which is palatable, nutritious and easily digested.

The following interesting story comes from Alabama: "From Tuskegee Institute comes news of a new breed of goat intended to supply the needs of the farmer whose pasture is limited. A blue-blooded male, an imported Saanen with a pedigree stretching from here to there, has been crossed with scrubby nanny goats and the results are expected to produce an animal that will yield from three to six quarts of milk a day ten months in the year."

Pretty soon we may expect to see the slogan "Grow strong and beautiful by drinking goat's milk" in the advertising pages of newspapers and magazines and on bill boards along the highways

Florence, S. C., Morning News
February 6, 1940

Rise In Peanut Growing Seen As Likelu In 1940

High Prices Attract Many Florence County Farmers to Its Use In Place of Cotton

George Washington Carver, famed negro scientist, performed an outstanding service for the southern farmer years ago when he discovered a number of valuable new uses for peanuts.

As a result farmers suffering from the boll weevil menace in many parts of the south dropped planting of cotton, in which they were making little or no profit and began planting peanuts.

Time passed. The peanut crops made more and more progress. Farmers had a valuable new field which although not always immensely profitable certainly helped when other markets was low.

This same piece of history, if re-enacted in Florence county today undoubtedly would be of great benefit to both the cotton and tobacco farmer, in the opinion of Ed Baskin, assistant county agent. Baskin and other leaders in the Clemson college extension service are convinced that peanuts have a great potential value as a crop for Florence county.

They believe it could solve many of the problems now confronting the growers of other crops and also would open a brand-new source of income to the Pee Dee section.

1,000 Acres Last Year

Already the peanut idea is catching on here. During the 1939 season, Baskin reports, more than 200 farmers in Florence county planted this crop, with about 1,000 acres represented in the process. The prospect, he says, is a great increase in acreage this year.

So widespread is the popularity of the peanut in some sections of the county, in fact, that it is threatening to take the place of cotton as a major crop. In the Evergreen section, for instance, many farmers have abandoned the staple entirely in favor of peanuts.

There are several advantages to growing peanuts which make it peculiarly appropriate for this time of year. In the first place it does not require such a large amount of fertilizer as do other crops. Secondly, it requires less labor than cotton. About all the labor necessary is to keep the crop free of weeds, for which purpose weeders are used periodically.

Peanuts are good also however in connection with the tobacco crop—not as a substitute however, as in the case of cotton. Since peanuts are a leading soil-depleting crop, they must be worked in rotation with other crops. This is where tobacco makes an excellent companion crop with which to alternate year by year.

Prices Continue High

What makes peanuts especially attractive at the present time is the fact that prices are and have been good for the past three years. The chances are they will be good for some time yet, in Baskin's opinion.

Several business leaders of Florence are convinced that Florence would be an ideal spot for a peanut market. At present farmers wishing to sell their peanuts must ship them through local concerns to Suffolk, Va., and Savannah, Ga. A market in Florence not only would be a service to the farmers already growing peanuts but would encourage others throughout the Pee Dee to use peanuts as a means of diversifying crops.

Some years ago peanut production mounted high as a source of income. For some reason, however, the growing of the crop was allowed to wane. County Agent Ward McLendon estimates that as much as 5,000 acres of peanuts was grown at one time. But now, it appears, the time is ripe again for an expansion of growth in the field

Columbia, S. C. State
May 19, 1940

Farmer Tells Trials in This Complicated World

R. W. Hamilton, state administrative officer of the AAA, received the following letter from a South Carolina Negro farmer, which speaks (in a round-about way) for itself:

"I con gratulate to you all I now you have help me sences you all have bin in the offic I am setting down to day just thinking back to 1930 32 and from 1933 up to now the diffren I do rember up to 33 all my plows and waggon all was break down and diden hade nothen to fix them with and in 33 I was not able to fix them onley but I was able to by new one by the help from the Lord and you all.

"But I lost in 1939 I lost all my soil payment but I am not bleaming you all my total litting acreages is 43.3 acre that is clear land and before the lotmon come on this pleces use to plant five acre of tobacco but I had quit planting any to keep the market up and was planting all cotton but sences the allotmen come on I am cut to 9.0 nine acres of cotton and 0.9 of tobacco in with give me onley 909 of money crop. Well last year my land was measure and they told me i had two and one-half acre of tobacco planted and did not give me but 1 one and they told me that i will not get any payment at all for 1939 i did felt very bad about that but i am not bleaming them but that is just how I lost last year But i diden no but that is the hardest licke hade from 33 up to now and that leave me way back in det from last year. I am not blaming no boddy but my own self But I heat it.

"I was talking to one of my old friend the other day and I ask him is he feel any reliefe from President Roosevelt he did no under stand me. I say any diffren 1931: 32 and back; so then he said oh i just now understand you year because up to 33 i diden had but one old suit of close and it was dren now i got peanty of close. I say just think back in 1932 and back how things was cotton seed wooden hardly pay for the gining eight and ten dollar ber teurn sences that how much did it advance 30 35 per turn and may be up dont you see. Corn was 35 and 40 cent per bushel pease 40 per bushel sences that just see how much it did rise aye Preseden Roosevelt did help every body me and all others by I lose my soil payment last year 39 that wooden make me say that he diden help me I may say I lose it my self he put the money there for me some that i am intitel to it and some say i am not and that just keep puzle i dont no. but any how the presedent have help me and I beleave that he every thing that he coud to hep every bodv."

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
June 2, 1940

65 Negro Farm Families Enrolled In Program to Produce Food And Feed at Home

Negro farmers in Greenwood county are enrolling in the "Better Farm Living" program, says L. V Walker, negro farm agent. They are going to make a genuine effort to produce as much food and feed at home as possible and it is expected that out of the group enrolled and keeping records a good percentage will qualify for certificates at the close of 1940.

The following 65 negro farm families have already enrolled and will be given assistance this year in their worthy efforts.

Paul Cason, B. Simpkins, Len White, Henry Morgan, Philip Williams, John Fortune, Harrison Garner, Manuel Goggins, Ernest Crawford, Rebecca Williams, L. A. Williams, James N. Martin, Tom Walker, Edward Settles, John Deal, Prelo Moore, P. S. Goodwin, Balus Glover Joseph B. Tolbert, John Davis, William Tolbert, Sr., John Brown Wade Perrin, Nick Thompson, Cochran Goode, Lucius Latimer Paris Coats, Lenton Hart, Susan Williams, Callis Goodwin, Cleo Davis, Anderson Collier, Henry Bowie Otis Butler, Ella Baylor, William McAdams, Rob Collins, Janie Lark, Olando Phillips, J. T. Lomax, Gassaway Blocker, Will Moragne, Eugene J. Goodman, Samuel Adams, Mack Anderson, James D. Robinson, Mabell Posey, Elliott Walker, Mose Davis, Carroll Moss, John Henry Tolbert, White Jones, John Brooks, Winnie Goode, Will Young, R. L. Warren, Tinsley Frazier, Watt Hackett, Ulysses G. Hawes, Sam Hackett, Tom Young, George Goggins, Furman Jones, R. C. Calhoun

—Home Management Program of Orangeburg Farms Makes Rapid Progress Under Miss Cammie A. Fludd, Home Supervisor

The Palmetto Leader



8-3-40
Columbia, S.C.

There are 44 Negro families on the project at Orangeburg and 25 on the Tiverton project in Sumter county. All of these families are taught better practices in home making by Miss Fludd.

The main object of the program is to raise the standards of living among low income rural families

We can truly say that this is being done on the above named projects. When the project started in 1938 a accurate check was made on each family. This was done to determine the needs of the families, in order that the work to be done could be centered around these particular needs.

When the families of Orangeburg Farms Project moved on their units in 1938 there were only 62 quarts of canned food among the entire 44 families. At the end of the canning season these same families yielded an average of 367 quarts per family.

The year 1939 found thee families advancing on the program more and more. At the end of that year 407 quarts were canned per family.

Each family occupies a new home with all modern outhouses. They are given instruction in the proper care of their homes and surroundings. Emphasis is also placed on the importance of having a good year-round garden. In fact, each family is required to grow and produce enough food to adequately take care of the members of the household.

Exterior and Interior decoration are given proper consideration.

The supervisor has done an excellent job in helping the families to beautify their homes. This has been done by the use of native shrubbery for foundation planting and blooming perennials.

Each and every home on the project has been beautified and all lawns grassed.

Visitors come from far and near to see how these homes were transformed into places of beauty.

With the soundness of the Home Management program, under the efficient leadership of Miss Fludd, Orangeburg Farms project is bound to be one of the leading projects in the region.

AGRICULTURE - 1940 SOUTH CAROLINA
CONDITIONS OF

Columbia, S. C. State
September 28, 1940

A CHANCE.

A friend of The State, commenting in a letter on a recent editorial concerning cotton, says this:

"If the situation were hopeless for the South, the inaction would not be so bad, but it isn't hopeless." (The inaction he refers to is the failure of Southern agencies to develop either important new uses for cotton or important substitute crops).

The friend, who, by the way, is a nationally respected student of agriculture, continues:

"The paint people, for instance, have come to me crying for help to get any kind of drying oil crops started. The sweet potato starch business can be established with a little more intensive research effort to complete a dehydration process, if my information is accurate. There are many other potential 'outs.'"

About that "inaction" accusation: whether it is justified or not, this is a fact: the problem of cotton is not being solved by Southern action. Can't we do something more than we have done? In South Carolina are many colleges, state and denominational, for white students and for Negro students. Many of these colleges have laboratories. In one of those laboratories a solution for the cotton problem may some day be found, and the rewards of greatness await the finder of it.

Winnsboro, S. C. News & Herald
October 31, 1940

Negro Farmer Lauds 'Male Cow'

With a big "male cow" weighing about 1,200 pounds, Ernest Johnson proudly reported that he will harvest sufficient corn to carry him and his family through the winter and until corn comes again in 1941. As a matter of fact he reported four heavy bales of cotton, plenty of peas, 125 bushels of corn, two-fifths acre of garden, and a large broadcast plot of turnips. Three shoats in the fattening pen with plenty of corn which seems as if there will be plenty of meat to go along with the other things raised on the farm. One of the most remarkable things about Mr. Johnson is that he is out of debt and that he has definite plans for the fall and winter. His fall program is as follows: he plans to plant wheat, oats, Austrian winter peas, and oats, rye and vetch for a temporary winter pasture. He also has five tons of lime to apply to some of his land.

As he says, "I want to give it to you as you see it and as it is. It can be done because you see what I have done with your own eyes with the "old male cow." Others should do better. I want to give it to you straight."

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
November 29, 1940

Votes for What It Gets

The number of farmers in South Carolina is 160,000 or 165,000. The census bureau reported for 1929 that 26,000 of them produced no cotton. They raised vegetables, fruits, tobacco, livestock. Horry is one of the great farming counties of the state; touching it are counties of great cotton farms and plantations, but its cotton crop is usually about 2,000 bales.

Horry demonstrates that intelligent farmers can get on pretty well without dependence on cotton. Most of the forty-six counties have not Horry's advantages for raising tobacco.

At a guess The News and Courier would say that about 40,000 or 50,000 farmers, white and black, big farmers and little, have solved the problem of comfortable existence in South Carolina. Most of them raise cotton, but they produce corn, oats, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes, livestock, poultry, many other edible and salable things.

These people are resourceful. Nothing stops them. Curtailment of their cotton acreage does not curtail their farm production. Many of them raise as many bales of cotton on seventy-five or eighty acres as they formerly raised on a hundred.

While these people, most of them, find cotton a convenient crop wherewith to obtain the cash to pay their taxes (they pay high taxes on gasoline and virtually everything they buy as well as direct taxes on their lands and houses), they "make a living", make ends meet, and always will, regardless of cotton.

To a hundred thousand or more South Carolina farmers, the majority of them negroes though many are white, curtailment of cotton is curtailment of income. They are made poorer, much poorer, by it. This curtailment has been the principal factor in the creation of relief rolls. Without it would have been no greater problem of relief than has been in South Carolina, colony and state, often in 270 years of its history.

Were government, when it curtails acreage, to become an overseer, showing 100,000 farmers what to do and how to do it, and compelling them to obey orders, its experiment in farm management might succeed.

Government is now the "Ole Marster" that reduces acreage and at the same time reduces labor, taking on itself the burden of supplying necessaries no longer produced. That in a word, is "federal relief".

Government has taken thousands of farm laborers, after taking from them land that was required for their cash crop, and sent them to work on the roads, on "projects." There they are subject to a measure, indulgent and kind, of overseeing.

The state government needs money. It must have tax revenues. Schools are in the main supported by land and house taxes. The state has difficulty in obtaining what it needs for carrying on colleges and other fine institutions by indirect taxation. The federal government squeezes the people by that form of taxation.

About the last thing that the people who vote in primaries would endure is the going back by state government to the horse and buggy age.

One advising the people to "face the music" cannot expect to be elected.

The hope of South Carolina is to live well, off the federal government. The people are taught that Ohioans, New Yorkers, Pennsylvanians, taxing themselves, will give more to South Carolina than they get out of it. Somehow, The News and Courier, heretic that it is, cannot persuade itself that it will be fattened and petted into prosperity by the money of outsiders, the Hagues, the Kellys, Jersey City, Chicago, Harlem and the Second Ward. They are in the saddle. The News and Courier is a skeptical, an incredulous journal.

South Carolina commonly votes for what it gets.

Blind Man Has Six-Acre Farm

Raises Vegetables by Touch; Handles Chickens, and Fishes

By TRAVELER

AUSTIN, Texas — No government relief, no modern seeing-eye dog, no one to lead him — yet Sayer Jones, blind farmer, lives a happy and resourceful life. Afro American

He owns a six-acre tract of land just out of Bastrop, Texas, which he cultivates and plants himself. He delivers packages, telegrams, and saws cord wood in the time not spent on his farm. For recreation, he fishes in the Colorado River. All these things are done with the aid of no one.

Blind 32 Years

Mr. Jones has not seen a ray of sunlight for thirty-two years, having lost his eyesight in an accident that he had while in his teens. Aug. 31, 1940

On his small farm, a visitor will observe a variety of garden truck which is planted in rows that may be compared favorably with those on other farms. Mr. Jones does the cultivating on his knees with a heavy short-handled hoe. He locates the weeds and grass with his left hand and chops them out with his right.

Knows His Plants

During the time a reporter was visiting his farm, Mr. Jones was asked about a certain squash plant near him in the garden. "Yes," he answered hurriedly, "those five on that vine near you are really beautiful." There were really five squash on the vine!

Among other things, he has a large number of chickens. If asked about his chickens, he can give the exact number and the number of eggs laid by each. He counts them each night before retiring. Baltimore

Always Self-Supporting M.L.

Because of his resourcefulness, Mr. Jones has never been on relief, nor has he begged or accepted help. He is thrown in contact with people on the street and in the business houses while taking odd jobs at grocery stores and the telegraph office. Does this confuse him? No.

He knows the exact location of every business in town and the voice and the sound of the step of all the prominent residents. When he delivers a package, he can tell immediately whether he has the right person by the sound of his voice.

"I even know many by the difference in sound as they clear their throats or laugh," he says.

Fishes for Recreation

Mr. Jones fishes for recreation and he is what an old fisherman would call on who knows his business. He fishes with trot lines, from one side of the river to the other, and baits each hook. He has a small row boat that he uses for the purpose of baiting and running the lines.

"The easiest way I find to do this," he said, "is to start at one end of my trot line and by using the line as a guide I can follow it across the river. About every four feet I will have a hook extending from the main line, and when I come to a hook I will lift the line enough either to bait it or take a fish off."

Can Distinguish Fish

Can the average person tell by the jerk of the trot line what type of fish will be taken out? Sayer Jones can. Running the trot lines with him, one notices that he will hesitate before raising the fish out of the water and call out a certain species. He will be correct almost every time.

Asked how he does these things which are seemingly impossible for a man without sight, he explained by the following statement:

"I know the direction of the current of the river and from that I take the bearing of the wind. Therefore, I know the position of each bank, and the spot on the bank by the contour."

Confused Occasionally

To reach his boat when he is near the bank, he listens for the lapping of the water against the bottom of the boat. These things are to him no more than any of the other routine things of the day.

His mental vision is excellent. "As people with good eyesight will do," he said when asked how he kept from becoming confused, "I sometimes become confused. On such occasions, I stop and remain still until I am able to regain a mental vision of whatever I am confronted with."

Charlottesville Va Progress
March 9 1940

Colored Farmers Have County Aid

Local Advisory Program Gives Assistance In Planning

Progress in extension work throughout the county with colored farm people was described in a recent report to the Albemarle Board of Supervisors by C. G. Greer, county local farm agent.

The work is supported by a County Advisory Board, made up of two outstanding farmers and one farm woman from each organized adult community club in the county.

"The object of the County Advisory Board is to help foster agricultural industry and better living conditions among colored people in Albemarle County by coming together and planning community and county programs of work that best fit the needs of the people," says Greer. "Board members act as leaders in their respective communities in helping to get the work carried out as planned at the beginning of the year.

"Last year the board helped plan and carry out activities which included a County Program of work County Farmers' conference and a community garden contest in each organized community, thirty-two farmers attended the one-day farmers' conference at Virginia State College for Negroes; money was raised to send three delegates to the State Advisory Board meeting in Appomattox County; a County Community Improvement contest was held which had as its aim farm ownership, membership in a community club, self-upport, painting of houses and construction of sanitary toilets. Other goals were 4-H Club work for children, soil conservation and AAA programs, the improvement of livestock and the purchase of day-old chicks for poultry production.

"The County Community Improvement contest was a very important piece of work accomplished as a result of the County Advisory Board," Greer continued. "The five demonstration communities entering the contest accomplished the painting of 31 homes, added 78 members to adult clubs and 74 boys and girls to the 4-H club, remodeled or made sanitary 97 toilets and saw ten familes become self-supporting."

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITIONS OF VIRGINIA

Teaching Farmers How To Live At Home

COUNTY Agent N. D. Morse, of Mecklenburg, has been giving the farmers of his county some good advice. He has been trying to show them how to produce on their farms the food supplies for which they have been spending 30 per cent of their cash income. Some of the farmers in Mr. Morse's county are worrying about how they are going to live with their tobacco acreage cut down under the allotment plan. The county agent is telling them to plant more food crops, raise more pigs and cows and chickens, and thus realize more cash from a smaller tobacco acreage.

Mr. Morse employs homely language to put his message over, but he will no doubt get it over. We quote him:

"I just read a statement the other day that 30 per cent of a farmer's income goes for food. We can reduce this expenditure by raising more of what we eat. We are not in the habit of having a year-round garden, we talk about it but the weeds usually get it when our tobacco gets us.

"We keep a few cows but we don't take care of them as we should. We get hold of a few pigs, but we don't feed them properly. Pigs when we get 'em and pigs when we kill 'em. We keep a few hens but we don't feed them the right kind of rations. We plant a little corn, 'side it down, lay it by' and then buy corn the next year.

"You will hear of some farmer's meetings. Make up your mind to attend and learn all you can about this farming business. Let's use our heads a little more while our bodies rest from the big crops of tobacco we have been making."

CITY YOUTH NOW STUDY FARMING

Courier 4-6-40
Pittsburgh Pa.

Hampton's Dean of Men Reveals New Educational Trend—Major Brown Has Been at School 25 Years.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va., Apr. 4—City-bred youths in increasing numbers are now studying agriculture at Hampton and various schools throughout the country, Major Walter R. Brown, dean of men here, declared this week.

This new development does not necessarily hail a return-to-the-farm movement, however, he said.

"Civil service opportunities offered by the state and Federal governments in their extension and farm-aid programs are probably responsible for the increase," he said.

"In the old days, only farm boys seemed interested in agriculture and not too many of them. Then it was a case of returning to the farm or of teaching agriculture at some state school. The opportunities are much wider now.

Major Brown, who has spent more than half of his 54 years here as a student and administrative employe, does not believe there has been much change in Hampton students during that time.

"The boys now may be brighter," he said, "but not out of proportion to the development of the times."

Planning for the immediate future is harder for the present generation than for earlier graduates, he believes.

"In the old days," he said, "the boys trained for jobs which they knew were waiting for them. Jobs are not so plentiful now and this uncertainty often places the youth in a dilemna. In this way education is more or a gamble.

"It is my belief that Negro leaders in business and trade must open up new avenues for our youth. The chain store idea must develop from pooled resources so that Negro youth may be put to work. This idea, carried into barber and tailoring shops, into cafeterias garages and hotels, could do much for the benefit of the race.

Major Brown entered Hampton in 1907 and graduated from the institute in 1911 and the normal school in 1913. He taught in the college and came here as assistant to R. R. Moton, then commandant of men, in 1915—the same year that the educator left to succeed the late Booker T. Washington as principal of Tuskegee Institute.

Major Allen Washington succeeded Dr. Moton as commandant in 1916 and held the post until 1930. Major Brown succeeded him and the title was changed to dean of men. His employment here has been continuous since 1915, although he took a leave in 1928 to study at the Harvard Graduate school.

Major Brown is treasurer of both the Hampton Alumni Association and the Negro Organization Society of Virginia. The former organization has just completed a $5,000 student loan fund under his administration and is now raising a $15,000 scholarship fund.

He is also secretary of the Deans' Association, for personnel deans in Negro educational institutions.

AGRICULTURAL - 1940
CONDITIONS, IMPROVEMENT OF

C. I. O. Brings Negroes Here To Get Instructions For Unionizing Farm Workers

Williams, Ousted From Tenant Union For Red Connections, Leads "Classes" At Iowa Avenue School; Youth Congress Sends Helper

Twenty hand-picked negroes from Southern cotton states are getting a course in C. I. O. unionization tactics under the tutelage of "Rev." Claude Williams, ousted in 1938 by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for alleged Communistic activities, at 352 West Iowa Avenue.

The negroes, many of whom never had been away from their home counties before, were transported here in an attempt by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America Union (C. I. O.) to master a movement at Commonwealth Collbattery of organizers to go into the lege. tenant farmer organization field in the Fall.

They were called from the states of Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Oklahoma. Each receives room and board in return for spending long hours in the Williams class room.

Return Home Sunday

Sunday they will be returned to their homes with instructions to carry out Williams' version of unionism. With them will go the blessings of his union and the urgent request to organize friends and neighbors into dues-paying membership as rapidly as possible.

Behind them they leave backers and instructors, many of whom have been associated or accused of association with the Communist Party, including Williams, who have admitted dealings with the Red organization in this country.

Instruction of the negroes has included talks by Miles Norton, director of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn.; Winnefred Chappell, formerly of the Commonwealth College of Mena, Ark.; and Harry Koger, president of the Southern Cotton States Council.

McMichael to Speak

Before they are sent into the field they are scheduled to hear discussions by Jack McMichael, president of the American Youth Congress, and Donald Henderson, international president of the U. C. A. P. & W. W. A. U.

Henderson was ousted with Williams by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union under a cloud of Red charges.

It was Williams against whom J. R. Butler, head of the Tenant Farmers Union, led a bitter fight in 1938. Mr. Butler at that time claimed he found a report to the Communist Party on the activities and progress of the Communist

The paper was discovered among the personal belongings of Williams, then serving as director of the Mena, Ark., school as well as a director of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

Report Is Quoted

In part the report read:

"Since the reorganization of the school in August, 1937, when a Party member became director of the school (Claude Williams) there has been on the campus complete political unity, an absence of such outside or disturbing elements as previously existed, and a conscientious adherence to the Party program in all educational and field work"

Again, the report stated: "Commonwealth is possibly the Party's most strategic position from which to work at this time in the South, where the danger of Fascism is greatest."

Although Williams admitted having the paper in his possession, he denied any knowledg of it, explaining that one of the other members of the school had drawn it up and presented it for his inspection. He denied having a membership in the Communist Party.

Sing Union Songs

During his ouster trial, however, he told of approaching Mr. Butler with the suggestion that they attempt to get a $500 donation for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union from the Communist Party. He also told of having Communist leaders visit him while he was director of the Arkansas school.

Working now as a teacher for the U. C. A. P. & A. W. A. U., Williams has conducted his classes at the headquarters of the Inland Boatman's Division of the National Maritime Union, 352 West Iowa.

The negro has been "farmed" out with local union families for the duration of their instruction—an educational program consisting chiefly, according to Williams, of drumming the same facts over and over again.

Williams starts each meeting with a long singing session. At first the negroes sing their own religious songs, then adapt the tunes to union words.

Clap and Stomp Feet

They clap and stomp their feet and roll their eyes as they sing and shout in an occasional well timed "hallejuhah." As the tempo of the singing increases, Williams smoothly directs the turn toward union songs.

"We are going to end the slavery . . . " they begin to sing. "Let the will go marching on . . . hallejuhah . . . we are going to end the slavery. . ."

Then they turn to another:

"Organize, organize, organize,
"Let the will go marching on.
"Organize, organize, organize,
"For the day will soon come,
"Organize, organize, organize."

But once away from the familiar old spiritual tunes, the negroes find themselves on far less certain ground.

Williams yesterday ended the singing session and instructed his students to go ahead with a mock organization meeting.

Mock Meeting Held

A big boned negro girl was serving as secretary, but she became so fascinated with Williams' watch that she did not even hear instructions to call the roll. When he prodded her gently, she grinned and rolled her eys.

Williams finally held out the watch for the girl to inspect. Satisfied she stumbled through the formality of reading minutes and calling the roll. Throughout the mock meeting they were corrected and prompted by the teacher.

But Sunday they will be returned to their home counties in the cotton South to attempt and instruct others.

EDUCATION IS URGED FOR CLIENTS OF FSA

State Director A. D. Stewart Speaks At State College

Special to The Commercial Appeal

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., Aug. 13.—"One of the biggest tasks of the Farm Security Administration is that of providing adequate education for adults on the FSA program," A. D. Stewart, state director of the FSA, said in address here Tuesday night.

Speaking at a forum program of the Training Institute for WPA teachers of adults and nursery schools being conducted at Mississippi State College, Mr. Stewart appealed to the adult teachers to help in providing educational opportunities for the adults on the FSA program.

"The average net cash income for tenant families in Mississippi is $164 yearly," Mr. Stewart said, "while the average income per person among the tenant people is only $31." The Farm Security Administration has almost doubled this income for its 12,000 clients during the past two years, according to Mr. Stewart. This great increase has been made possible by more scientific farming methods and by budgeting.

He also told of the great loss in income caused by tenant families moving each year. "It costs tenant families in this state more than $8,000,000 yearly to move, and the cost to the land owners is even greater," he said.

Other forum guest speakers scheduled to appear here this week as announced by R. E. Steen, state director of forums, are P. H. Eason, state supervisor of negro education, Thursday, and Miss Mae Cresswell, home demonstration agent, Friday.

FARMERS TO HOLD SOIL CONSERVATION MEET AUGUST 23rd

The Third Annual Farmer's Soil Conservation Meeting for Georgia Negro farmers will be held in the Millville comunity near Dublin on August 23rd where a large number of farmers from all parts of the state, agricultural experts, educators, and business-men will gather to observe the progress made by these farm people through Soil Conservation practices, the live-at-home program, and farm managerial operations.

County Agent E. C. Thomas and the Laurens county farmers will serve as hosts to this meeting and tour which will begin from his office and cover some of the best farms in that section. E. A. Miller, Assistant to the Director, Southern Division Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C., will make the main address on this annual occasion. These Millville farmers are very anxious to show the coming visitors how thy farm over in Laurens county.

At the end of this meeting, a barbecue dinner of home grown products from the farms of the Millville community will be served.

This type of Soil Conservation meeting was started three years ago in Union Point on the farm of Miles Hackney who wanted his neighbors to see what he had accomplished by rebuilding his soil and practicing a live-at-home program.

OFFICIALS SAY SHELTER HAS BEEN FOUND FOR DESTITUTE FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Call Kansas city Kansas

Two Years Ago, Situation in Southeastern Part of State Was Critical; Tenant Farmers 'Took to the Highways'

SEP 20 1940

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) —Farm Security administration of the department of agriculture is pointing with no little pride at the accomplishments achieved in the Southeastern section of Missouri, which came into the public eye some two years ago.

At that time, about 2,000 white and colored sharecroppers appeared on the highways declaring they had been evicted from their farms by landlords who were supplanting them with mechanized labor. Under the leadership of the Rev. Owen Whitfield, a dynamic personality, those sharecroppers soon had the attention of the entire company.

Two-thirds of this group were colored. Today, the same sharecroppers are gone from the highways and the Mississippi spillway, where they were forced by the state police after the demonstration along the roadway. Shelter has been found for most of the unfortunates who took to the roads in protest in January, 1939, and a start, at least, has been made toward a solution of the problem that pushed them off the land.

Kansas City

While plans for investigation of the demonstration and the forces that caused it were pouring into Washington, FSA faced the task of finding a way to security for the landless.

Kansas

Six months ago, Missouri's Gov. Lloyd C. Stark announced approval of a five-point program offered by FSA officials, much of which is already in effective operation.

The program now being carried out in Missouri's Southeast counties includes expansion of the standard rehabilitation loan program, which provides farmers, particularly croppers, with working equipment, stock the development of groups of labor homes on government-owned land; and the location of sharecroppers in scattered labor hommes, jointly financed by FSA and by the owners on land provided by them.

A special program, under which large tracts are obtained by Farm Security on long term leases, and subleased to sharecroppers families is also a part of the new plan. Another phase is a labor rehabilitation program, supplying garden seed, canning equipment and other immediate operating needs to families able to secure small tracts of land, rent free, from landowners.

Typical of new developments are the Christian Era community in Mississippi county, the special real estate loan farms in Pomiscot county, and the group labor in both these counties.

Last March, 26 Negro families, under a board of trustees headed by Rev. James Wright, took up a 2,000 acre tract on the Mississippi spillway near Charleston. With FSA help, through rehabilitation loans for operating equipment, they cleared enough land to provide each family with subsistence crops and enough cotton and corn for cash and stock feed.

Crops in Christian Era community now are nearly ready for harvest. Cotton is waist high and security lies ahead for these families.

Down in Pemiscot county on the Arkansas border, 20 families out of 40 who made their own brave start toward ownership a few years back have been saved from disaster by FSA's new special real estate loans. These loans enable them to refinance their mortgages on easier terms, so that they can meet the payments out of their small incomes.

SEP 20 1940

The Call

Group labor homes, with annual rent averaging four to five percent of the cost of construction $750, are already in use in Pemiscot, Mississippi and New Madrid counties. At Portage farms in Pemiscot county, Negro and white families, former croppers, are working the land successfully, and serving together without friction on the board of directors.

Kansas City

Scattered labor homes, occupied rent free by cropper families, are being rapidly constructed on the land of cooperating owners. These families, who are raising subsistence gardens and stock feed under FSA supervision, have tenure security under the government-landlord agreement, under which the rights of both cropper and owner are protected.

FSA Finds Solution To Sharecroppers' Plight

Defender

SEP 21 1940

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AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

A. A. A.

Meetings Held In Louisville, Griffin, Cordele

NOV 16 1940

By W. A. HAGINS

Plans for the 1941 cotton referendum, which will be held throughout the United States on December 7, were outlined for Georgia Negro Farmers, Extension workers, and Vocational teachers by Federal and State Agricultural Adjustment Administration officials and Agricultural Extension Specialists at the three recent A.A.A. educational meetings. They were held at Louisville, Cordele, and Griffin on November 7, 8, and 9, respectively.

Daily World

In addressing the group at the first meeting, J. B. Young, representing the state office of the A.A.A., said: "On December 7, and for the fourth successive season, cotton growers throughout America will vote whether or not they want marketing quotas for their 1941 cotton crops. That is to say, whether they want to try to hold cotton production and marketing in line with the demand. You who produced cotton in 1940 are eligible to vote by secret ballot and no poll tax receipts are necessary. All cotton growers should take advantage of this privilege for it will mean a great deal to the thousands of American farmers who desire a fair price for their cotton and who wish to have a voice in the make-up of their farm program."

Atlanta, Ga.

Other speakers on the occasion were Extension Field Crop Specialist E. D. Alexander and Extension Farm Management Economist Kenneth Treanor, both from the Athens office; P. K. Norris, Mrs. Jennie B. Moton; and James P. Davis, all from the Washington office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Each of these speakers made a contribution to the event and brought forth some helpful solutions to many of the farmers' problems during these critical times.

Topics for discussion were as follows: (a) The Cotton Situation (b) Marketing Quotas (c) Food and Feed (d) New Phases of the 1941 Farm Program (e) Improving Work Relationship with Farm People under the A. A.A. Program (f) The Agricultural Adjustment Administration's Contribution to the National Defense (g) The A.A.A. Program and Human Conservation, and (h) The Food Situation and Related Matters to the Agricultural Situation in Georgia.

tate Agent P. H. Stone, of the State Agricultural Extension Service, pointed out that hundreds of farmers put aside farm chores and flocked to these meetings to get first hand informa- ever to be held here in Georgia tion on the referendum. "These were the best A.A.A. meetings and should prove most beneficial to all farmers. I am of the opinion that this series of meetings is an answer to the many vital questions which these farm people raise from time to time," he said.

Some of these tillers of the soil had the meetings at heart and attended all three of them and lauded the experts on their technique in acquainting them with the basic steps of the 1941 cotton program.

These A.A.A. educational meetings are sponsored annually by the State Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, and other State Agricultural Agencies.

Our Cotton Problem

DEC 9 1940

The cotton farmers in the referendum Saturday voted overwhelmingly—by a ratio of more than 12 to 1—in favor of the adoption of cotton quotas for the 1941 crop. It was expected that the quotas would be approved, and it is not surprising that they should have been approved by so big a majority, in view of the situation in which the cotton farmers find themselves as a result of the war, which has shut us off from most of our foreign market for the fiber.

Birmingham News

The proportion of farmers who voted for crop control this time was 92.5 per cent, on the basis of incomplete but representative returns. This was the largest majority in favor of cotton control in any referendum since the enactment of the 1938 agricultural adjustment act. Not even the first referendum held after the passage of that act, following the disastrously heavy crop of 1937, when there were no restrictions on production, showed quite as large a majority of farmers in favor of control. The referendum governing the 1938 crop was voted by a majority of 92.1 per cent, that for 1939 by 84.1 per cent, and for 1940 by 91.2 per cent.

Birmingham Ala.

The only disappointing thing about the referendum Saturday was the failure of so many cotton farmers to take part in the voting. In the 19 cotton-growing states there are about 2,250,000 farmers eligible to vote on the quotas. Incomplete returns indicate that less than half of these farmers voted. Undoubtedly, the principal reason for the failure of so many to vote was that they were certain the quota plan would be approved anyway. There was no opposition at all to it, and naturally many farmers failed to vote when they knew that the outcome was a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless, a large vote was desirable as evidence of continuing farmer interest in this system of regulating cotton production.

The quotas for 1941 will provide for the planting of not more than 27,900,000 acres, which ordinarily would produce about 12,000,000 bales. In some years of unrestricted production the total cotton acreage has gone as high as 40,000,000 acres. If we should plant that much acreage to cotton in 1941, it is hard to imagine what would happen to the cotton farmers. Yet, if we did not have crop control, it is quite possible that we would have a crop approaching 40,000,000 acres, notwithstanding the disappearance of most of our foreign markets.

The adoption of quotas was obviously necessary; but having done this, we are still faced with a grave cotton problem. The limitation of production will help to offset the loss of foreign markets, but we still will have much more cotton, not even counting the carry-over on hand, than we can use in this country in a year.

DEC

The highest level our domestic consumption of cotton has ever reached is about 8,000,000 bales in one year. Usually it has been less than that. The highest consumption of cotton we can reasonably hope for in this country in the near future is about 10,000,000 bales. That, incidentally, is the goal for domestic consumption that has been set by the National Cotton Council, which is doing a good job of trying to stimulate the use of more cotton goods in the United States.

In view of the fact that agriculture is the one big American industry hardest hit by the war, while many other industries are prospering as a result of war business, the people of this country should be willing to do everything they possibly can, within reason, to help and protect agriculture. In view of the further fact that, among agricultural products, cotton is particularly hard hit by the war, the American public should be eager to help out in every possible way in relieving the cotton crisis.

DEC

This can be done, in part, by increased purchases of cotton goods. It is also likely that Congress will have to adopt some special measures for the relief of agriculture, and especially cotton.

Greenwood, S C Index-Journal
November 28, 1940

Ballot Boxes Will Be At Community Centers

Hours for Voting Will Be From Nine to Five O'clock—All Farmers Who Produced Cotton This Year Entitled to Vote

The cotton producers' referendum will be held on December 7th between the hours of nine a. m. and five p. m. with ballot boxes at the following community centers in Greenwood county, according to Frank D. Cooper, administrative assistant.

Ninety Six City Hall
Kinards Community House
Kirksey—J. B. Wren's Store
Greenwood—Grand Jury Room
Coronaca—Boyd's Store
Fellowship—Miller's Store
Troy—Byrd's Store
Callison—Community House
Verdery—Henderson's Store
Brooks—L. L. Hasting's Store
Hodges—John Rampey's Store
Walnut Grove — Walnut Grove School House
Bradley—Neil Steifle's Store
Cokesbury — Cokesbury School House
Phoenix—Luquire's Store

Mr. Cooper states that all farmers who produced cotton in 1940 are eligible to vote and should come out Saturday (Dec. 7) and vote at their community voting center. While no producer can vote more than once, it is possible for him to cast his vote at some other community box, provided he can establish his identity and satisfy the referendum committee that he has not voted elsewhere. Greenwood county farm people should take more interest in this feature of the program, as only 40 per cent of the eligible voters took part in the 1939 referendum.

All Greenwood county farm operators are being written and invited to attend at least one community meeting between December 2nd and 5th to hear the details of the 1941 farm program explained, to get an explanation of the marketing quota referendum to be held on December 7th, and to learn something about the outlook for farming, according to county agent R. D. Steer, who announce the following community meetings:

Monday, December 2

10:00 a. m.—Sandridge Club House
2:30 p. m.—Hodges School House
7:00 p. m.—Mt. Olive Church (Negroes)

Tuesday, December 3

10:00 a. m.—Neil Steifle's Store, Bradley
1:30 p. m.—Callison Community House
3:00 p. m.—Ninety Six School Auditorium
7:00 p. m.—Troy School House

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 a. m.—Kinards Community House
2:30 p. m.—Kirksey School
2:30 p. m.—Coronaca School
7:00 p. m.—Phoenix School
7:00 p. m.—Big Mt. Zion Church (Negroes)

Thursday, December 5

10:00 a. m.—Henderson's Store, Verdery
10:00 a. m. — Greenwood Court House
2:30 p. m.—Walnut Grove School
7:00 p. m.—Cokesbury School

The county agent urges every farmer to attend one of these meetings in order that he thoroughly understand the farm program for next year. He should also be interested in the annual referendum which will be held this year on December 7th to decide whether marketing quotas will be in effect for 1941 on cotton or not. This one feature has been important in making the farm program a success during the last few years as it penalized the non-complying farmer. Each farmer should be interested enough in his program to come out on December 7th and express himself by casting his vote.

CONTROL OF COTTON ASSURED

DEC 9 1940

Regulated Output And Marketing Approved In 19-State Vote

PLURALITY OF 92.5 PER CENT SHOWN

1941 Program Designed To Limit Plantings To 27,900,000 Acres

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—(AP)—Another year of marketing and production control over cotton was assured Sunday as returns from a grower referendum in 19 states piled up big pluralities for the Agriculture Department's quota system.

An incomplete count of Saturday's voting showed 761,117 for continuation of the cotton program and 61,408 against. The percentage approving it was 92.5.

Agriculture Department officials said less than half of the 2,250,000 eligible farmers had participated in the referendum. Approval by two-thirds of those voting was required to continue the program.

Excess Subject To Tax

Under the system, the department establishes marketing quotas for all cotton growers. Sales of cotton in excess of the quotas are subject to penalty taxes of 3 cents a pound.

The program was inaugurated in 1938 and has been in effect ever since. In the first year's referendum, 92.1 per cent of the growers approved. In 1939, the count showed 84.1 per cent favoring the program, and 1940 quotas were approved by 91.2 per cent.

Saturday's refendum was conducted in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Approval of the 1941 program had been taken for granted by agriculture officials here. They said little opposition had been in evidence.

Peak Output 12,000,000 Bales

The 1941 program is designed to limit plantings to 27,900,000 acres, the same as this year. Normally, that acreage would yield approximately 12,000,000 bales. In 1937, the year before the cotton program was undertaken, production reached an all-time high of more than 18,000,000 bales. In the days of uncontrolled plantings, cotton acreages some times were as high as 40,000,000 acres.

The 1941 program faces the prospect of diminished exports and increasing surpluses. The war abroad has reduced the already dwindled export market to the lowest point since Civil War years.

Despite the 1939-40 export subsidy program and other federal devices to dispose of cotton, the surplus of the staple increased. The government now owns about 6,347,000 bales of defaulted loan cotton and expects by the end of this marketing season to hold an additional 6,000,000 bales as collateral on loans.

Returns Listed

Returns from the referendum by states were:

State—	For	Against
Alabama	99,653	5,973
Arizona	802	21
Arkansas	94,724	4,685
California	2,661	317
Florida	2,481	698
Georgia	35,518	4,897
Illinois	167	61
Kansas	18	1
Kentucky	1,141	35
Louisiana	40,520	2,657
Mississippi	153,644	6,023
Missouri	5,798	486
New Mexico	1,215	97
North Carolina	53,025	4,091
Oklahoma	45,667	8,860
South Carolina	59,019	2,361
Tennessee	34,138	2,002
Texas	127,632	17,552
Virginia	3,312	91
Totals	761,117	61,408

300,000 Are Eligible To Cast Their Ballots Throughout Alabama

Farmers Are Expected To Approve Again AAA Reduction Of Acreage

DEC 6 1940

AUBURN, Ala.—It's voting day for cotton producers Saturday and polling places in scattered communities throughout the state are expected to be scenes of lively activity as agricultural workers and county and community AAA farmer-committeemen seek to get out the largest vote yet recorded in the annual cotton marketing quota referendum.

Polling places are expected to be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Community referendum committees will be in charge of the voting and all producers of cotton in 1940—some 300,000 or more—will be eligible to cast ballots.

There were no apparent indications that farmers would throw over marketing quotas, the so-called "teeth" of the cotton acreage reduction program, in effect during the past three cotton years. Last year quotas were approved by a 95 per cent majority. Campaigns in most of the counties were developed to get more of the producers to take an interest in the program by voting in the annual referendum.

The state AAA committee, headed by Chairman W. B. Crawley, of Banks, took up this question at a meeting here Friday, and called on county and community committeemen to urge all producers to take part in the balloting.

"Since the first referendum, held in March, 1938, called after the passage of the 1938 agricultural adjustment act, there have been fewer producers who have voted," the committee said. "The AAA program, along with quotas, is the farmers' program, made possible by congressional action. Can farmers continue to have this support by government in solving their cotton problems and increasing farm income if only half of them take enough interest in the program to vote? We should like to urge that every producer express his true conviction for or against quotas by voting Saturday."

Mr. Crawley pointed out that marketing quotas provide for marketing allotments for each cotton producer and for penalties if this quota is exceeded. If quotas are in effect, cotton loans, which have been instrumental in stabilizing the price of cotton, can be made available to producers. On the other hand, loans cannot be made available if quotas are not in effect.

Greenville, S C. News
November 19, 1940

Explain AAA To Negro Farmers

Meeting Slated For 4:30 P. M. Tomorrow At Phillis Wheatley

The county negro planning committee, together with other farmers of the county, will meet tomorrow afternoon at 4:30 o'clock in the club room of the Phillis Wheatley center it was announced yesterday by R. W. Anderson, negro county farm agent.

Representatives of the State agricultural extension service will discuss the 1941 outlook for cotton and other crops and will explain significant changes in the 1941 AAA program.

According to recent releases changes in the program will affect all farmers. Therefore, to every farmer seeking to get the most out of his farming activities for 1941, it is highly important that he attend this meeting, Anderson said.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

A. A. A.

The Cotton Referendum

DEC 6 1940

Tomorrow the cotton farmers of Alabama and of other cotton-producing states will hold their annual referendum to decide whether or not to adopt marketing quotas on the 1941 crop—in other words, whether they shall practice crop control again next year or have unrestricted production.

The outcome is hardly in doubt. Even if it were not for the conditions in world trade produced by the war, the cotton farmers would assuredly vote for crop control again, as they have consistently done by abundant majorities ever since the program of crop limitation was inaugurated. But with the war having shut us off from most of our export market for cotton, a heavy vote for the marketing quotas is imperatively necessary in this referendum. And we may be sure that the farmers of Alabama and of every other cotton state will vote for the marketing quota plan tomorrow.

The fact that this result may be confidently anticipated, however, should not cause farmers to neglect to vote in the referendum. For something more is involved in this referendum than the decision itself. This balloting constitutes a sort of index of the cotton farmers' active interest in their problem. For that reason, it is important that every farmer who can possibly do so should vote.

Agricultural leaders are somewhat disturbed over the fact that in Alabama there has been a decrease in the number of cotton farmers taking part in the annual referendum. Now, the farmers themselves understand, of course, how the marketing quotas affect them, and they undoubtedly approve of the principle involved. A two-thirds majority vote of the farmers is necessary to put the plan into effect, and the majorities for it have been consistently so heavy, in Alabama and in the cotton states as a whole, that there need be no fear of the plan's defeat. But it is not enough merely to vote the plan into effect. The farmers should also show, by their participation in the referendum, that they are keenly interested in this important agricultural question and that they like this new process of using democratic methods in the solution of economic problems.

This will be the fourth time that the farmers have voted on this question since the 1938 agricultural adjustment act was adopted. With reference to the 1938 cotton crop, Alabama farmers gave a 95.8 per cent majority for the quotas; to the 1939 crop, a 91.1 per cent majority, and to the 1940 crop, a 95 per cent majority. Tomorrow's vote should be no less emphatically for the quota plan.

There are about 300,000 cotton farmers in Alabama eligible to take part in the referendum. How many of them will take time off from their farm work to go to their community polling places? In the 1938 referendum, 222,854 of the approximately 300,000 Alabama cotton farmers voted. This was not a bad showing, it seems to us, although we think that even a larger proportion of farmers should be interested enough in their own welfare to cast their votes. In the 1939 referendum, however, the number participating dropped sharply, down to 184,830, and in the referendum for the 1940 crop there was another steep decline, this time to 153,656, or only about half the eligible farmers. With an increasing number of farmers participating in the AAA program itself, there has been a steady decrease in the number of growers voting in the annual referendum.

The reasons for this reduction are not altogether clear, although it is obvious that it has been caused in part, at least, by the fact that there is little opposition among the farmers to the marketing quota provisions, and many farmers simply feel that it is not necessary for them to vote.

Farm leaders in Alabama, however, think it is very important for the farmers to turn out a large vote. P. O. Davis, director of the State Extension Service, and A. W. Jones, AAA administrative officer, have called on the growers to vote, whether they approve or disapprove the quotas, so that the referendum results will be truly representative of the opinions of farmers.

Walter L. Randolph, newly elected president of the State Farm Bureau, says in the December issue of *The Farm Bureau News:*

> It is the duty and the privilege of every cotton grower to vote in the referendum on Saturday, Dec. 7. I hope that every Farm Bureau member will take an active interest in this referendum. As members, it is part of your duty to see your neighbors and request them to go to the polls and vote.

Members of the State AAA Committee have pointed out that unless more farmers take an interest and express their opinion, Congress may not be too anxious to continue this program for the betterment of Southern agriculture.

DEC 6 1940

The farmers of Alabama and of other cotton states should realize that the results of the annual referendum are studied in Washington not only from the standpoint of whether or not the farmers favor marketing quotas, but also from the standpoint of the percentage of farmers showing enough interest in their program to vote. Congress, in any discussion of farm programs and farm appropriations, has the results of these referendums up for discussion. Obviously, the participation of 85 or 90 per cent or more of the eligible farmers will impress Congress much more than the participation of a mere 50 per cent.

So let the farmers turn out a large vote tomorrow! It is important not only that they approve the quota plan, but that they do so by a heavy vote.

Tenants Ordered to Be 'Specific' in AAA Complaints

(The Associated Press)

Washington, Jan. 16.—The agricultural adjustment administration asked a group of Southern sharecroppers and tenants today to submit in their complaints "specific cases" of discrimination by landowners in the conduct of crop control programs.

The delegation, led by the Rev Owen H. Whitfield, negro of Kirkwood, Mo., asked the agricultural department to help end "wholesale evictions" in the cotton belt, particularly in Southeast Missouri, and to provide adequate relief for those without employment.

The meeting was attended by 25 delegates from Texas, Oklahome, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana and Alabama.

Whitfield told Walter L. Randolph, assistant AAA director for the Southern division, that local AAA committees were, for the most part, controlled by landowners who denied sharecroppers their "constitutional right" to participate in the conduct of the federal crop program.

When asked to submit examples of sharecroppers being denied their rights, Whitfield objected, contending that to do so would put individuals "on the spot" and subject them to further acts of discrimination.

Small Southern Farmers Get Increase In AAA Payments

From The Commercial Appeal Washingtc

WASHINGTN, March 5.—Farmers in nine Southern states, whose soil conservation payments were less than $20 0in 1938, received $22,096,000 additional under the percentageof increase provided by the AAA, according to I. W. Duggan, director of the AAA for the Southern region.

Payments were finished only recently, and the Department of Agriculture has just completed tabulating the result, Mr. Duggan said. He added that small payfor the 1939 crop probably will be even larger.

Regarded As Answer

The statement of Mr. Duggan is regarded as a complete answer to the contention that the AAA operates to the advantage of the large land owner and ot the detriment of small farmers and tenants.

Mr. Duggan said that out of a total of 23,70,500 farmers receiving parity and soil conservation payments, 2,256,800 come within the small farmer group, receiving less than $200 for soil conservation. In other words, all farmers in nine Southern states, with the exception of 113,700, come within classification of small farmers.

In a special efort to aid small fgarmers, the AAA provides that farmers whose conservation payments arenot more than $20 shall have an increase of 40 per cent; an increase of 20 per cent, and $8 for farmers receiving not more than $40; an additional 10 per cent and $12 for those receiving less than $60, and $14 for farmers whose payments arenot more than $186.

This provision has served to increase payments 22.7 per cent, acfarmers whose oil conservation payments were less than $200.

Average Is $52.90

The average payment for the nine states for soil conservation, which, of course, did not include parity payments, amounted to $52.90, ranging from a low of $39.95 for Florida to $64.33 for Texas small farmers.

The total amount of payments in checks for less than $200 was $119,395,000 for the nine states, including the increase of $22,096,000.

Total payments for Arkansas farmers receiving less than $200 was $12,453,000; for Mississippi, $14,845,000 and Alabama, $14,220,000. The amount received by small farmers in Arkansas was increased 23.5 per cent; Mississippi, 25.5 per cent, and Alabama, 24.8 per cent as a result of the provision for graduated increases on small payments.

Calhoun, Ga., Times
August 8, 1940

Economic Changes Retard Progress Of Negro Farmers

Profound economic and agricultural changes among Georgia Negro farmers were wrought during 1920 and 1930. As a result, the past decade found wants and aspirations of Negroes far exceeding their ability to produce money enough to gratify their whims during this period.

"The desire for modern dress, automobiles, radios and many other semi-luxuries stepped up the need for cash far beyond the ability of the land or the farmer under existing circumstances," P. H. Stone, state Extension Negro Agent, said this week. "This meant that cash crops and the best land received most attention with no emphasis whatsoever on building up poorer land. As a result, despite the efforts of the Extension Service and other agricultural agencies, the live-at-home program was pushed farther and farther into the background, the loss of soil fertility sped up and farm families became less and less self-sustaining."

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The following records of Negro farmers as cited by Agent Stone shows the progress made by Negroes through the AAA and live-at-home program.

Manning Sellers, Baxley, has cooperated with the farm program from the beginning and listen to what he has to say: "For the last three years, I have not had to buy a grain of corn or a pound of hay. In fact, I have had a little of this stuff to sell. And in addition, I have more hogs and cows on my farm than ever before. The AAA program has enabled me to do these things because through its provisions I have cut down my cotton and tobacco acreage and have more time and better land to devote to hay, corn and livestock."

Harrison Dowdy, Hull, said, "I hardly know where to begin to tell what the AAA program has done for me. I have got all my land terraced so it won't wash away. I've got two acres of kudzu, and strip cropping is being practiced on my farm. I've got more meat in my smokehouse than ever before and more corn despite the dry season last year."

Ellis Green, a truck farmer in Chatham county, says he spent twice as much on fertilizer before the AAA came along to keep his vegetable production at a certain point. But now with the program encouraging him to plant summer and winter legumes he is actually growing more vegetables at a reduced crop through increased fertility of his soil as a result of the soil building practices.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
July 29, 1940

Mail Bag

S. A. V., Atlanta: The most effective Negro in the AAA service, according to officials here, is Jennie B. Moton, widow of the former President of Tukegee University. She works in the field offices, handling complaints and explaining the program to colored farmers. . . . H. G., Washington: The job of assistant translator, for which Civil Service is now offering an exam, pays only $2,000, though the candidates are expected to have command of four languages—French, German, Italian and Spanish. Result is that the government gets mediocre people who have a smattering of all four languages, an expertness in none. . . . K. S., Boston: It was in 1914 that the Germans first gave assurances to the United States that they had no territorial designs in this hemisphere. Ambassador Bernsdorff, in a note to Secretary of State Bryan, used language strikingly similar to the language the Germans use today: "I am instructed by my government to deny most categorically rumors circulated by English agents to the effect that Germany, in case she emerges victorious from the present war, intends to seek expansion in South America." . . . J. L. C., Salem, Ohio: The U. S. makes no charge for carrying great quantities of Argentine mail to Chile and other South American countries on U S ships. Supposed to be reciprocal arrangment, actually the U. S. gives extensive service free and gets practically nothing in return. It is a part of the good-will program.

Kingsland, Ga., S. F. Georgian
August 15, 1940

Economic Changes Retard Progress of Negro Farmers

Profound economic and agricultural changes among Georgia Negro farmers were wrought during 1920 and 1930. As a result, the past decade found wants and aspirations of Negroes far exceeding their ability to produce money enough to gratify their whims during this period.

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Charlotte, N. C. Observer
August 16, 1940

Negro Farmers Indorse Poe For Cabinet Post

NEW BERN, Aug. 15.—Dr. Clarence Poe was today indorsed for the post of Secretary of Agriculture at the closing of the state Negro farmers' and homemakers' conference.

In the chief address, he stressed a better balanced system of farming with more animal production.

In their resolutions, the delegates voted to ask for permission to exhibit their products at the annual state fairs, and for more colored workers in AAA, FSA, state extension service, and welfare activities.

Fayetteville was selected for next year's convention. T. M. Garris of Windsor was re-elected president; Mrs. Millis Williams of Guilford county, first vice preident; Wesley McMillan of Cumberland county, second vice president; John Mitchell of Greensboro, secretary-treasurer; and M. H. Crockett of Wake county, assistant secretary-treaurer.

Farmers Told To Get Ready For Problems

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
OCT 24 1940

AAA Official Warns of Most Serious Situation in History.

MACON, Ga., Oct. 23.—(AP)—Director I. W. Duggan, of the Southern Agricultural Adjustment Administration, warned farmers today to prepare "to cope with problems far more serious than any that have yet confronted you."

Addressing the county agricultural agents of Georgia in conference on 1941 farm programs, Duggan declared:

"We are going to have to be prepared to see our export markets drastically reduced and then devise means of building them up again. We are going to have to produce more food and feed for home use, so that each farm can be as nearly self sufficient as possible. And last, but far from least, we are going to have to guard against the depletion and destruction of our soil that took place in the first World War."

Turning to the problem of cotton, Duggan declared "we certainly cannot at this time seriously consider further permanent reduction of acreage as a solution of the cotton problem. The dislocations that would take place would more than offset any gains that might be made."

The AAA is planning to emphasize food and feed crops in future programs, he added.

Convenient polling places will be set up in each community so that farmer-voters may express their choice as to whether or not marketing quotas will be in effect on the 1941 crop.

RACE FARMERS TO CAST BALLOTS ON '41 COTTON QUOTA

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
NOV 30 1940

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27—(ANP)—The opportunity for active participation by Negro farmers in the cotton marketing quota referendum which will be held on Saturday, December 7, was emphasized in a series of meetings which have been held in the cotton producing states.

Beginning Monday, November 4, and continuing through the 19th, three district meetings were held in each state and thousands of Negro farmers heard Washington, state and county officials discuss aspects of the cotton outlook as it may influence prices and income for farmers in the South.

E. A. Miller of the southern division of Triple-A and P. K. Norris of the foreign agriculture section, told the farmers that the British blockade will probably limit cotton exports during this year to from one-fourth to one-third of normal foreign sales. Some offset to losses in sales abroad will be effective as a result of efforts to increase domestic consumption through matress making for low income families, the cotton stamp plan and other methods to create wider uses of cotton made products.

Other Washington officials included as discussion leaders in meetings were C. F. Clark, senior economist of the southern division of Triple-A and the three Negro field officers, Mrs. R. R. Moton, James P. Davis and A. L. Holsey.

State extension and AAA officials in each state discussed details of the 1941 AAA program and Negro county extension agents in the various districts co-operated by organizing selected groups of Negro farm leaders to attend the meetings.

AGRICULTURE- 1940 ALABAMA
IMPROVEMENT OF

Tenant Farmer, Too, Is Faring Better Under U. S. Program

31,861 Families In State Receiving Help In 1939, Report Shows

Gone with the wind of darker days are the hardships once experienced by the sharecropper and tenant farmer of Alabama, a report by M. H. Pearson of Auburn, state director of the Farm Security Administration, discloses.

The sharecropper is becoming a thing of the past and the tenant farmer is being given an opportunity to purchase his own farm. The farm families are leading healthier lives through being taught to raise foods for their own subsistence which carry them through the Winter. In other ways, notably sanitation and renovation of houses, healthy living is being promoted.

Farmers and their families who otherwise would be stranded are being settled on up-to-date modern farms on rural projects. One of these, Mount Olive homesteads, is on the outskirts of Birmingham.

Mr. Pearson's report reveals a total of 31,861 of the 273,773 families of the state were receiving FSA assistance on June 30, 1939. This number includes some on the original 1935 list who have not yet been rehabilitated, as well as others added in years since then.

Loans To Limited Number

Besides loans, the help to these farmers includes technical advice on management of farm and home. A balanced farming program to meet each family's needs is worked out with the cooperation of FSA supervisors. The families are visited, the year's work planned. These include ways of enabling children to attend school and making medical aid available.

Loans are made to a limited number of deserving tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers to purchase family size farms. Those overburdened with debts are given adjustments satisfactory to the creditor. Loans are made to groups of low-income farmers for heavy farm machinery, purebred sires or other needs individuals cannot meet.

In 1935, before the resettlement program was initiated, a census revealed that 64.5 per cent of all farmers in Alabama were tenants or sharecroppers. Possessions of some 13,000 rural families transferred them from relief rolls to what is now the FSA averaged but $3.03 per family. Their average cash farm income had been only $91 per family, or $15 per person, for the previous year. They lacked farming and household equipment. They subsisted on a diet of mainly bread, fat back, "bacon and syrup" and pellagra and other deficiency disease resulted.

At the end of 1938, under the FSA program, the net worth of families aided jumped to $442.15.

Average Loan $186.87

Rural rehabilitation loans in Alabama since the program was started in 1935 up to July 31, 1939, totaled $14,540,224.10. The money went from the farmers into local channels of trade. The average loan per family during the year ending June 30 1938, was $186.87. An increase of 107.5 per cent was made during the 1938-39 fiscal year in the number of families assisted. New families added to the benefits raised the loans to an average of $300.69.

As rehabilitation families have become more supporting, the loan average has decreased.

Wholesome foods are made possible through the requirement that the families maintain fenced gardens. Meat, vegetable, milk needs have been increased.

More than one-fourth of the rehabilitation borrowers in the state advanced last year from the status of sharecropper to tenant. This was made possible largely by enabling them to secure work animals needed for successful farming. Under the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act, 57 counties in the state have been selected for tenant-purchase loans, increasing the number of tenants turned owners.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
August 7, 1940

Colored Tenant Purchase Borrowers To Hold Meeting

A meeting of the colored tenant purchase borrowers of Barbour, Bullock and Henry counties will be held at Clayton about the middle of August. It is the intention of the Farm Security Administration of Barbour county to hold meetings of this type several times during the year.

Andalusia, Ala., Star
June 6, 1940

Another recent observation is that spring gardens also should be planted at the proper time. The best spring garden we have seen in 1940 was made by a Negro woman in Macon County whose experience had taught her that she should plant around the middle of February even though the weather then may be unfavorable. In the fall or early winter she always prepares her soil and fertilizes it abundantly with manure.

Planting is then easy. If the seed are planted at the right time—even though it is cold—they will be ready to germinate when favorable weather comes. If, however, something should happen to the early spring garden, the land is ready for replanting. Many of our ealy vegetables are seldom, if ever, seriously damaged by freezes that we have in late winter or early spring in Alabama.

Troy, Ala. Messenger
August 2, 1940

FIRST OPEN BOLL OF COTTON IS BROUGHT TO TROY.

The first open cotton boll of the season reached this office this (Friday) morning, having been raised on the plantation of the A. W. Thompson estate in the Spring Hill section on the farm of a negro tenant.

The second open boll of the season reached our office shortly after the one grown on the Thompson estate, this one being brought in by Mrs. Parker Starling, having been grown on the Starling farm near Troy.

It has been hard for a reporter to get much information on crop prospects in this county for this year. Some farmers say that prospects are resonably good, while others say that the crop will be extremely short. So far as we have been able to learn prospects are fair to good on strong, red lands, but sandy land was not able to stand up under the heavy and continuous rains of a few weeks ago.

Prospects for corn are air and it is believed in many quarters that a good peanut crop will be harvested. However, as a crop forecaster, we think that we'd do pretty well trying to run a newspaper.

We'll tell you more about it after the cotton has been picked, ginned and baled.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
July 27, 1940

NEGRO FARM MEETING HELD

Accompanied by T. W. Bridges negro county agent, more than 50 farm leaders and club members of Morgan and Lawrence counties visited the agricultural experiment sub-station at Belle Mina yesterday, to study improved farm practices being conducted, and carried out at the station.

The agent said that Fred Stewart, supt., and his assistants took great pain in showing these farmers successful growth of alfalfa sericea lespedeza, pasture and grain crops, and instructing them proper methods of establishing these crops.

In stressing the importance of a livestock program on most farms, the officials urged the necessity of sufficient, and cheep feeds.

Bridges declared that these annual trips to the station are doing much to influence better practices on the average negro farm.

Union Springs, Ala., Herald
May 23, 1940

TO COLORED FARMERS

The Colored Farmers Cooperative Association, of Bullock County, is calling the farmers to meet at the court house in Union Springs, at 10 a. m., next Saturday, May 25th. We are going to have one of the best speakers on record. Come and hear him. The object of this meeting is to try to better conditions. The merchants of Union Springs want to help us. Come May 25th.

W. V. Smart, Pres.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
April 26, 1940

Some People Can Farm Without A Plow

By L. O. BRACKEEN

At least three Montgomery County farmers are making a success of farming without plowing a furrow and doing very little discing, except in their gardens.

They are Samuel Fischer, Hope Hull; V. C. Elgin, Selma Highway, Montgomery, and H. B. Stewart, Catoma School, Montgomery. All are operating test demonstration farms and are keeping complete records of their farming operations for their own use and for use of the Alabama Extension Service.

As told by W. H. Gregory, associate agronomist at Auburn, who is helping these farmers in their demonstration work, some of the highlights of their farming operations follow:

Since 1937 Mr. Fischer has been demonstrating the value of applying adequate phosphate to Black Belt soil on his 256-acre farm. He only plows one acre of his 256 acres each year and that acre is used as a garden, the rest of his land being devoted to permanent sod for pasturage and hay for his dairy herd.

Fifteen clover varieties including White Dutch, Lappacea, Persian, alfalfa, the lespedezas and the melolotes can be observed growing on Mr. Fischer's land. He was one of the first farmers in the Black Belt to find that Korean lespedeza will grow on the lime soils of this area, it being much more lime tolerant than the other lespedezas.

After being properly fertilized with phosphate all of these clovers are adding enormous quantities of nitrogen to his soils causing Dallis grass, Kentucky blue grass, Johnson grass, and other grasses to grow luxuriantly. He increased his hay yields from 85 tons on 59 acres in 1936 to 119 tons on 49 acres in 1939.

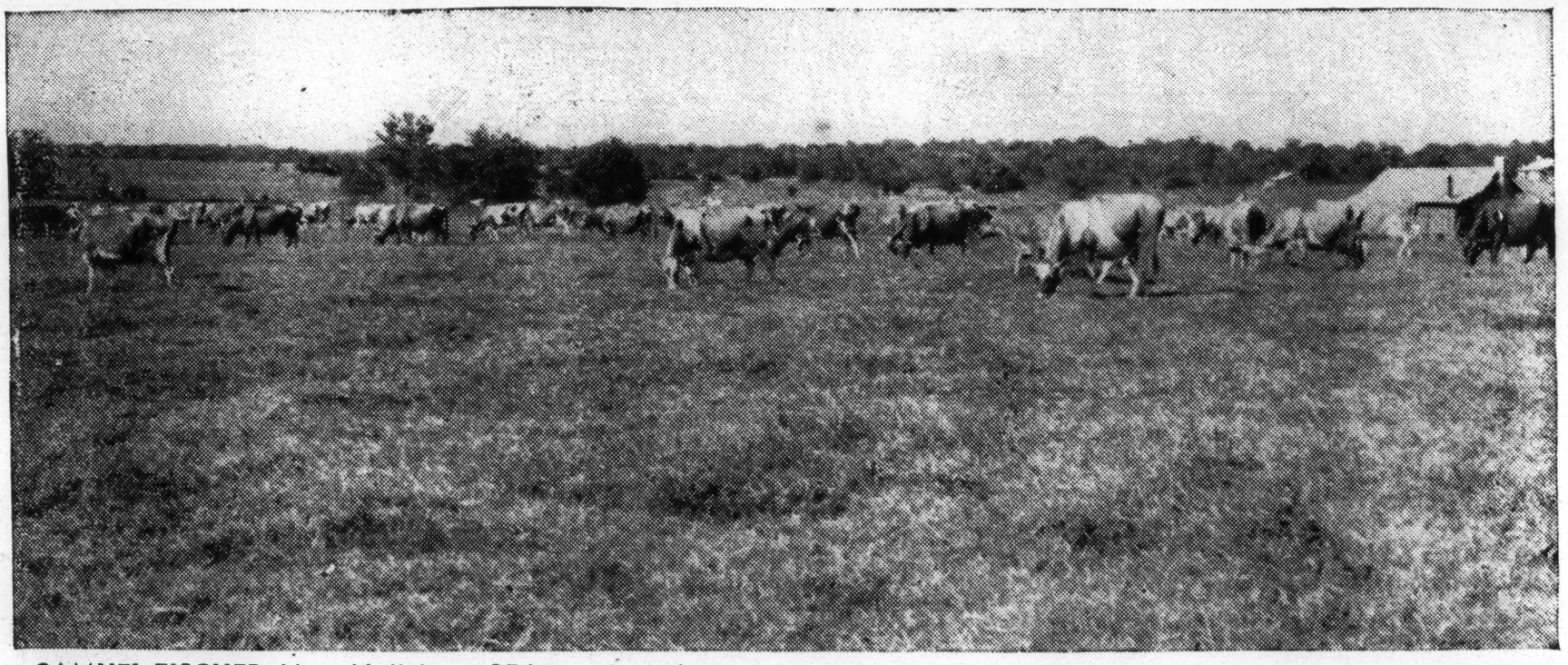
In 1936 Mr. Fischer had 22 acres in perennial clover. In 1937 this was increased to 58, in 1938 to 104, and in 1939 to 138 acres. He grows all the roughage and pasturage necessary for 78 milk cows, 63 calves, three bulls and five head of work stock. All concentrates are purchased by the operator.

This farm supports five farm families. The number in these families has increased from 14 in 1937 to 19 in 1939.

Mr. Fischer's farm is u[sed] cultural workers to show ot[hers] ers the value of the use of phosphate. In the last two years there has been five meetings held on this farm with a total attendance of 273 and there has been 124 farmers who have visited this farm at other times to study it.

Produces Own Feed

V. C. Elgin is one dairyman producing more feed than his dairy cows can consume. With the help of his two sons and three negro families, he operates 610 acres.



SAMUEL FISCHER, Hope Hull, has a 256-acre farm devoted entirely to dairying. He plows only one acre each year and that acre is used as a garden. Shown above is a herd of dairy cattle on Fischer's dairy farm.

Mr. Elgin started farming in 1920 with a rented place and 10 borrowed cows. In a few years he had bought and paid for his home place of 232 acres. In 1938 he purchased an additional farm of 378 acres.

The farm grew no cotton or corn in 1939. It had 260 acres in permanent pasture, 75 acres in lappacea clover, 80 acres of barley and oats, and 15 acres of lespedeza sericea. The lespedeza is being increased to 65 acres this year to replace 40 acres of soybeans planted in 1939. By substituting lespedeza for soybeans, Mr. Elgin hopes to be able to run his farm without plowing up any of his soil this year.

In addition to supplying sufficient feed for his 50 milk cows, his young dairy cattle and workstock, Mr. Elgin annually feeds a large number of steers with feed produced on his farm. He also sells a great many oats and considerable alfalfa hay. As a supplementary source of income, Mr. Elgin produces eggs and plans eventually to increase his poultry flock to 1,000 laying hens.

Mr. Elgin is a great believer in the use of phosphate on Black Belt soil and in the past three years has applied 70,000 pounds of triple-superphosphate equivalent to 210,000 pounds of commercial superphosphate to his soil and gives the use of this phosphate credit for the success of his feed production program. Authorities who have studied Mr. Elgin's farm system say that there are no additional soil conservation practices which could be included in his farming system. Erosion is practically checked on this farm.

Mr. Stewart has a farm of 573 acres without a single acre in row crops. He has not plowed up any of his land in several years and keeps the entire farm under permanent cover all the time. He is now sold on using phosphate but this has not always been true.

Discovers New Clover

In 1936, right after being selected as a demonstration farmer to cooperate with the Alabama Extension Service in testing the use of phosphate on Montgomery County soil, he applied phosphate to his farm. He did not have any clover growing on his farm and therefore saw not the least results of the phosphate after applying it.

Therefore in 1937 he did not apply any more phosphate. In 1938 Mr Stewart found a great deal of clover on the farm and he also noticed a decided difference in the areas where the phosphate had been applied in the Fall of 1936.

Most important, Mr. Stewart found a new clover which had not been observed in this section before. Agricultural workers at Auburn finally identified the clover as being Trifolium lappacea, or lappacea clover, which shows a great deal of promise as a pasture plant and as a soil building crop.

In fact the agricultural authorities at Auburn state that this clover found growing on Mr. Stewart's farm has the most dense growth of any legume they have seen and that it produced more seed per acre than any other similar plant.

Since the appearance of this clover Mr. Stewart has been a great booster for phosphate on Black Belt land. He has used his entire soil building allowance under the AAA program to obtain phosphate under the grant-of-aid program in addition to the phosphate that he uses in the test demonstration program with the Extension Service.

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl.
August 15, 1940

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Tenants Soon Will Become Land Owners

Bankhead-Jones Act To Be Invoked In This County

OCT 13 1940

"Some time soon a few Montgomery County tenant farmers are going to be climbing to the status of land-owners via the government's tenant purchase program fathered by the Bankhead-Jones Act," said William E. Elsberry last night, and the local Farm Security Administration supervisor advised that those having farmland to sell keep an eye on the new development.

"Each purchaser farmer," he said, "will have his eye out for a family type farm, one that is large enough to supply food and feed for his family and stock, one that will provide enough labor to keep his family busy and one that will give him cash enough to buy other items that can't be home-grown.

"These farms must be fertile enough, too, so that the family can save out of the crop money an amount each year to meet the payment of interest, principal, taxes and insurance on the purchase loans secured by the federal government."

"It is the applicant's job to find his own farm," he continued. "These families enter on an agreement that stretches amortized interest and principal payments over a period of 40 years. And 40 years is a mighty long time to spend on any one farm, or in any one neighborhood if you are dissatisfied. We want to make sure that each family picks a place where it will feel not only it can make a living, but also where it feels it will enjoy the living it makes.

"What we at the office do is to invite land owners who think they have land for sale suitable to this kind of farming to list their properties with us. It saves the applicants a great deal of asking about. It keeps the committee of Montgomery County citizens, who must approve the purchase, informed about available properties. It assures every landowner that what he has to offer is given consideration. Landowners having larger tracts should not hesitate to list them since such places often are suitable for division into two or more farmsteads of the type needed by tenant-purchase applicants.

"The legislation by which the tenant-purchase program is authorized provides that the price paid for any farm bought with these funds be no more per farm than the average valuation of farms in that same county. Also, it requires that, after the applicant for the loan has made his selection, the chosen farm must be recommended by the local tenant-purchase committee made up of long-time residents and farmers, as well as receive the recommendation of county farm and home management supervisors. After approval by the district specialists the application is sent to the regional office for final action by representatives of the secretary of agriculture.

"Once the agreement has been signed, a landowner selling to tenant-purchase clients finds advantages not always present in connection with commercial sale. If he happens to be tilling adjoining acres, he acquires a stable neighbor, one who will be keeping his land ditched and terraced, one who will be eager to join with him in cooperative efforts for community improvements, better marketing facilities, etc. If the landowner happens to be in business in the trading area, he will profit from added impetus to the community's trade. If he happens to be selling out of his old home county, he can be satisfied with knowing he is leaving behind a stable, ambitious farm family that will fill his place."

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
September 8, 1940

Negro Farmers to Plan Milk Route

Negro farmers on the south side of the county are urged to attend a series of meetings this week to plan a milk route through that section, following the expressed desire of many farmers to sell milk or sour cream. These meetings are being arranged by the negro county agents, S. W. Boynton and L. M. Upshaw, to set up a route to serve the sections in which the meetings will be held under the schedule which follows:

On Tuesday meetings will be held at Sardis School, 9 a. m.; Gaines chapel school, 11 a. m.; King's Landing store, 1 p. m.; Belknap, Little Rock church, 3 p. m.

On Wednesday, Elm Bluff, Sumner's store, 9 a. m.; Richmond, Street school 11 a. m.; Tilden store 1 p. m.; Minter, Youngblood store, 3 p. m.

On Thursday, Pleasant Hill, Good Hope church, 11 a. m.; Sand Ridge school, 1 p. m.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
December 5, 1940

NEGRO FARMERS URGED TO BALLOT

Every negro farmer in Morgan and Lawrence counties will do southern agriculture an injustice if he fails to cast his vote in the cotton referendum of Saturday, December 7th, said T. W. Bridges, negro agent for the two counties, today.

In specifying who is eligible to vote the agent said that all persons who have a direct interest in the cotton produced in 1940, such as share croppers, third and fourth tenants and landlords, and all operators, can, and are expected to cast their ballot.

Bridges advised that without marketing quotas there will be no benefit payments nor loans on cotton grown in 1941.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

ALABAMA

Geneva, Ala., Reaper
August 29, 1940

Mattress Project Among Colored in Geneva County

Geneva county has a small negro farm population only 3,998 total colored population with 263 colored farm operators co-operating with the AAA program. Two-thirds of the negro population lives in Slocomb, Samson, Hartford and Geneva—the four towns of the county and not on the farm.

According to the mattress reports, 320 negroes have received mattresses in Geneva county to date. These have been made in joint centers by white people with one exception—ten mattresses for negroes were made at Holland's place under Mrs. Holland's supervision on August 7th.

Eliza Ingram on Mrs. Willie Bullock's place for the last fifteen years was the first colored person to receive a mattress in Geneva county. Eliza is 65 years old and the mother of nine children, all married and gone from this little cottage. The youngest son, Will Ed, lives next door, and Liza helps care for his twin son and daughter —they were among the first to use Liza's new bed. It is hard to say which give her the more pride—the new bed or the twins.

Liza came to work the first day Bullock's mattress center opened and gave two days of her time to this project.

Mrs. Nell Long, mattress supervisor in Chancellor, has the champion colored mattress maker, Annie Ceal Taylor, who helped make 20 beds. Her happy, willing way made working with Annie Ceal a pleasure.

Annie Ceal Taylor is a member of the ninth grade in a colored high school. Home economics is one of her best subjects. In this class she learned to cook, sew and care for her health. This year Annie Ceal became 21 years old, acquired a husband, canned 162 quarts of fruit and vegetables from her excellent garden, and made a bed.

The colored people on Holland's place met one afternoon and made their ticks at Aunt Nettie's and again on Wednesday to complete their beds.

District No. 2, of which Geneva county is a part, leads the state in mattress making, and the state leads the nation.

12 TENANT FARMERS SHARE $59,555 LOAN

Commercial Appeal
Memphis Tenn.

Buildings To Be Erected On 50-Acre Chicot County Plots

NOV 28 1940

Special to The Commercial Appeal

LAKE VILLAGE, Ark., Nov. 28.—Checks totaling $59,555 have been received and the deal for purchasing and improving 12 farms of 50 acres each from a select 600-acre tract on the Dantzler-Epstein plantation will be closed this week, according to information obtained from the local office of the Farm Security Administration.

This loan is made under the Jones-Bankhead Purchase Act to 12 selected farm tenant families. The land is located on a gravel road about three-quarters of a mile south of the new Lake Village-Greenville Bridge and is considered some of the best soil in Chicot County.

Good houses and barns will be constructed on each of the 12 farms. In the meantime the families will live in the plantation houses.

The families selected for these loans consist of 10 white and two negro families as follows: Homer Rich of Chicot; Clarence Cox, Otho Williams, Welden Hollis, Hal Reed, Marion Avery, John Cingalani, Robert Mazzanti, Thomas Brown and Amos Roberts, all of Lake Village, and two negro families, Joe Clayton and Sam Johnson Jr.

These families were selected by the County Tenant Purchase Committee consisting of M. T. Burge, Jennie; J. M. Higgins, Readland, and Henry L. Locke, Macon Lake.

It is estimated that by July, 1941, 65 Chicot County tenant families will be loaned money for the purchase of family size farms.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

ARKANSAS

1940 Sweepstakes Winners and Their Advisors



Shown seated on the front porch of their modest farm home near Lafe, Ark., is the Herman C. Gerdes family, 1940 Plant To Prosper Sweepstakes Champions, and the extension agents who helped them win the honor over 41,238 contestants. In the front row are (left to right) Constance Elaine Gerdes, 5; Mr. Gerdes, 29; Mrs. Gerdes, 28; Jo Ann, 3, and Doris Jean, 4. Mrs. Geraldine G. Orrell, Greene County home demonstration agent, and County Agent D. V. Maloch are on the top row.

Four Years Ago Tenant Farmer, Today He's MidSouth Champion In Plant To Prosper Competition

Commercial Appeal
Memphis Tenn.

Herman Gerdes Of Lafe, Ark., Hitched Plans To Sweepstakes Star And With Aid Of Wife Set Pace For Rural Success

DEC 18 1940

Slim, wiry Herman Gerdes, extenant farmer of Lafe, Ark., who hitched his farm plans to the Plant To Prosper star and wouldn't turn loose, is on top of the heap this morning.

Last night this 29-year-old Arkansas farmer and his 28-year-old wife, who borrowed money to begin farming four years ago, were crowned MidSouth Plant To Prosper sweepstakes champions at the seventh annual Plant To Prosper dinner at the Peabody.

Presentation of The Commercial Appeal's sweepstakes trophy and the $500 sweepstakes award were symbolic of the excellence this young farm family has achieved during the last four years in living-at-home, diversified farming, home improvement and soil conservation.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerdes, who five years ago decided they would have a farm of their own, have overcome obstacles that would have defeated a less determined couple. Folks around Lafe will tell you that this slow-talking farmer wouldn't give up—so naturally he won.

Victory in the Plant To Prosper Competition has brought them closer to the fulfillment of their dreams years ahead of their plans because the competition inspired them to get more accomplished in the last two years than they had dreamed of doing.

"When we entered the Plant To Prosper Contest we were working toward the cash prizes that were offered, but before the contest closed we realized that we had already won, regardless of any cash prize that was offered," said Mr. Gerdes.

Herman Gerdes' life story begins like most any story of a young farmer, but it goes much farther because he had the determination to carry on—to overcome the obstacles that usually kept tenants down.

Started On $25.19

"We were married in 1934," said Mr. Gerdes, "and we had $25.19 to buy our furniture and things we needed. We had to begin farming as sharecroppers and we lived in a small two-room house like many tenants live in.

"After sharecropping for two years, we decided that we could do better if we could get a place of our own. We borrowed money and bought a 40-acre farm in 1936 for $1000, and the next year we got 40 acres more.

"The man I bought the farm from owned it five years. He paid cash for it, but could not make a living on it. He worked hard but did not manage well. Some of the land was getting worn out and the rest of it was wet. He had poor crops and his only income was from row crops. We didn't have very much of a house on it, but we made out."

That's the story of his beginning, but won't you have a look now?

"When I bought the farm, I followed a soil building program and diversified my income by raising hogs and a few cattle. This way in two years I was able to get 40 more acres and begin building my home and out buildings. I've got 32 acres in cultivation and 48 acres in woods and pasture.

Diversified Farming

Mr. Gerdes learned while he was a tenant that the one-crop system of farming was financial suicide for the small farmer, so when he became an owner he diversified. His record book shows that he has five sources of income from livestock and livestock products and five from field crops. The total income from the 38 acres $3042.51 against a little more than $1600 last year.

In addition to increasing his income through diversified farming, Mr. Gerdes also took good care of his land. He grew more small grain instead of so much corn. He sowed vetch as a Winter cover crop and turned under a few acres of green lespedeza. The practice increased both his corn and cotton yields. Since his land s more or less level, drainage is a greater problem than erosion. He has kept his small ditches open so that the land will have proper drainage. Soybeans are planted in all corn.

With 40 acres in woods, Mr. Gerdes realizes that his timber, if properly cultivated, will continue to produce an income for him. He s using selective cutting and will have timber to sell each year as well as enough for materials needed for fences and repairs and enlargements to his farm buildings.

Mrs. Gerdes, who spends most of her time in the home preserving food for Winter, taking care of Constance, Doris and Jo Ann, has the same determination for success that her husband has shown.

In her pantry there are more than 600 quarts of fine quality fruits and vegetables in addition to 29 pounds of dried vegetables, 26 pounds of dried fruit and 21 quarts of kraut. They have 400 pounds of cured pork and 120 pounds of fresh pork; 20 quarts of beef; 35 pounds of fresh beef; four gallons of syrup and plenty of sweet and Irish potatoes. During the year they have used food from their farm valued at $531.50, and have food on hand valued at $257.45.

They believe in growing feed for their livestock as well. The barn filled with hay and grains valued at $512.75, an increase of $399.75 over last year. Their food bill, the food they purchased from the grocery, was only $36.21, a little more than $3 a month for a family of five.

"We have finished our home this year," said Mrs. Gerdes, "it cost $350, but everybody says it's worth $1000. We have built-in cabinets, ample working surfaces and the cabinets cost only 35 cents. We also built a clothes closet using left over lumber. We sealed and papered all the walls of the house and put facings on all doors and windows. We followed plans designed by the Arkansas Extension Service.

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"We have also built a back porch, screened it in and poured a concrete floor. We have concrete steps to both porches. We did all the work ourselves, so we were not out any money on labor. We have added two new congoleum rugs, six dining chairs, made a new mattress and refinished most of our furniture."

Not only have the Gerdes been good farmers, but they are also good citizens, taking part in many phases of the community activities. Mrs. Gerdes is a member of the Home Demonstration Club; poultry club leader, child training leader, church organist, member of the ladies aid, active in church work and civic affairs. Mr. Gerdes is president of the Lafe Farm Bureau, member of church committees, the county AAA and Land Use Planning Committees.

AGRICULTRE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

ARKANSAS

FSA AIDS IN REBUILDING FAMILY LIFE ON FARMS

By EUGENE D. RUTLAND

TURRELL, Ark. — Sharecropper John Whimper made $147.72 in 1933, mined his soil and lived out of tin cans and paper sacks.

Tenant John Whimper, who was given an opportunity to manage a farm of his own last year, had a gross income of $1350, practiced soil conservation and ate full meals from his own pantry and smoke house.

But that's only a highlight from the record that John and 121 other Negro farmers made last year on the Golightly Farm, four miles east of here, and the Sledge and Norfleet Farm near Clarksdale. The farms are known as the Clarksdale Homestead Association and are operated by the Negroes themselves with only guidance from the Farm Security Administration.

Back in 1938 the Sledge and Norfleet tract of 1440 acres was operated by an absentee landlord with day laborers and a few tenants. The tract was leased for five years by the Farm Security Administration and then subleased to the famlies on the farm who organized a cooperative.

"There were about 31 families working the place when we took it over," said Carlton G. Jerry, FSA rural supervisor. "Most of these families were working as day laborers. Few of the families had any tools, workstock, or canning equipment. The houses were not screened and there were few sanitary toilets.

"The association rented the farm, which has 1219 acres in cultivation for $9,000 a year. The cotton allotment is 528 acres and we planted 526.8 acres. Only a few accres were planted in Winter cover crops.

"Similar conditions existed on the Golightly place. This is the larger of the two farms. The total farm has 3907 acres with 2408 in cultivation. About 1,000 acres are in woods—virgin cypress. We have a five-year lease on the farm and the association pays an annual rental of $15,000.

"There are 81 units on the Golightly farm with a cotton allotment of 1043 acres. There were only six tenants on the Golightly tract, the remainder being sharecroppers. On both tracts we had to start from scratch with the families—because most of them were sharecroppers and did not have anything," he said.

In setting up the programs for each family, the supervisors learned much about the families. They selected the families that were capable of becoming tenants and the majority of them were. The families with the aid of the supervisors worked out their farm and home plans.

"These farm and home plans," said Miss Annie Rye, home management supervisor, "are the most important part of our program. We try to make the plans so that the families can see where they will be financially at the end of the year.

"We know how much land they are going to work, so we estimate the amount of cash income they will have. We know the amount that will be spent for making the crop, the amount needed for food, feed, school supplies, and the other necessities of life."

"Of course," said Mr. Jerry, "these families are expected to pay their operating cost at the end of the year. Then we have to make out a budget for the farming equipment, workstock, chickens, hogs, and a cow. These families are supplied the tools with which to make a comfortable living. The funds for the farming equipment are repayable over a period of from two to five years—so this makes it easy for the tenants to acquire the equipment to make their crop. They pay five per cent interest on the unpaid balance.

"We have this picture when the plans are completed. The farmer has his equipment and his plans for the year, not only for the crops, but plans for the feed for the livestock and food for the family. In addition to knowing where he is going, he will be given guidance during the year by the home management supervisor and the farm manager."

Proof that this type of rehabilitation program works is seen in the homes of these Negro families, in the extra cash they have made last yaad. The annnual?.o,oFY—last year. The annual report of the project shows that the families have already repaid a total of $25.403.15 of the $27,948.60 which was borrowed. The total amount due at the end of last year was $23,108.10 on the loans. This did not include the rent which has been paid.

Another side of the progress picture is seen in the increase in the live-at-home program. When the families came on the program last year, they had an average of 20 quarts per family. At the beginning of this year, they had an average of 75 quarts per person and they knew that they would not have to eat out of tin cans and paper sacks.

"At every one of the farm homes you will find plenty of canned food and the barns have plenty of hay and corn. There's more than enough meat in the smoke houses. And many of the families will have a new experience—they will not have to borrow money this year to make a crop," said Mr. Jerry.

Delegation Meets With Officials

Say 2,500 People Existing Without Subsistence Means

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(ANP)—Finding a means of livelihood for 2,500 share croppers in Arkansas who are unable to obtain land or relief was the subject of a conference last week between Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey and representatives of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO farm organization.

The delegation consisted of John Day, Fort Smith, international representative of the union; Ed Harris, Blytheville, vice president of the Arkansas council; and Henry Chance, Turrell, state secretary.

"These 2,500 people are without any means of subsistence whatever," said Harris. "They are living now in cotton towns all through the delta, picking up a few odd jobs and getting a little food from relatives and friends. Their places on the farms have been taken by tractors."

SEEK STATE OWNED LAND

The union representatives took up with Bailey the question of settling the dispossessed sharecroppers on land taken over by the state for unpaid taxes. Such land is now allotted by the land use committee of the state planning board.

The delegation also talked to Little Rock officials of the FSA, which is making a survey throughout the south of former tenant farmers who have been left to take care of themseves because of decreased cotton production and improved machinery. The situation, Day said, shows the desperate need of increased FSA appropriations so that the organization's program of tenant rehabilitation can be enlarged and speeded up.

Tenant Green Payne Repeats As Plant To Prosper Winner In Mississippi County, Ark.

Farmer Who Returned To The Soil After Giving Up WPA Job Makes Another Fine Record—Randle And Katzenbergers Earn High Honors

By MAUREEN KING NORRIS

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Nov. 2.—Winning first place in the Tenant Division of the Plant To Prosper contest in Mississippi County for the second consecutive year, Green Payne, 34-year-old Blytheville farmer and former Works Projects Administration worker, became this country's first contestant to repeat as a prize winner.

Dan E. Randle, 38, who farms 40 acres eight miles southwest of Osceola, was judged winner in the Landowners Division and William Katzenberger, 35, who lives in the Gosnell community near Blytheville, won first honors in home improvement.

The contest is sponsored in Mississippi County by the Blytheville Courier News, published by H. W. Haines. The Courier News awards prizes totaling $60 to local Plant To Prosper winners.

Returned To Farm

A few years ago Mr. Payne was a failure as a farmer, started working on a Works Projects Administration job and then after two years of barely making ends meet, he and Mrs. Payne, both farm-reared, decided to have one more try at farm life. In 1938 they rented a 24-acre tract from the Rectin Farms near Gosnell and had to borrow enough for a team, tools, equipment and living expenses, but by the end of 1939 they had succeeded so well in their comeback that all indebtedness had been paid off and many home improvements made, badly needed furniture and equipment bought.

As a result, Mr. Payne was awarded the Mississippi County championship in the Tenant Division. He placed second in the state competition for 1939.

This year, the Payne family followed up a resolution made in 1938 that nothing would be bought that could be produced on their place, thus limiting their grocery purchases to a few staple items. Mrs. Payne loaded up her pantry this year with 500 quarts of fruits and vegetables, not including meats that will be canned soon.

Produces Foodstuffs

As the income from such a small farm does not permit the purchase of much feed for livestock, Mr. Payne has managed to produce enough hay, corn and other feedstuff to carry his stock through the Winter.

The Paynes hire no extra labor. They do all their work with the help of their two children, James, 15, and Geneva, 12, both of whom are 4-H Club members.

Mr. Payne's record book for 1940 shows a total net gain from his farming operations of $1662, of which $862 was from livestock and crop receipts. These figures were considerably higher than a year ago.

Hard work and strict conservation also paid dividends for Mr. and Mrs. Randle, who have labored diligently on their 40-acre place near Osceola since they bought it in 1931. They now have security and independence for themselves and their two children, Nancy Hope, 3, and Dan Jr., 17 months.

Net Gain Of $2644

After making a down payment on the farm nine years ago, the Randles had exactly $9.50 and a determination to "make a go of things." This year they realized a net gain in their receipts and assets of $2644.62.

Mr. Randle has paid particular attention to soil conservation by carefully rotating his crops and using alfalfa as his principal soil builder, although he also had used soybeans and lespedeza.

Never, since the Randles moved to their Osceola farm, have they borrowed money to meet obligations, Each season they have raised a good year-around garden with a view of selling surplus vegetables to the local market after supplying their table and canning enough for their Winter needs. Three cows provide ample milk and butter for their home use, besides enough to sell to pay for the cows' feed bill and a portion of the family's grocery bill. A small cream separator, bought last May, enables the Randles to supplement their income through the sale of cream.

Own Meat On Farm

Since Mr. and Mrs. Randle were married 11 years ago they have never bought a pound of meat or lard, producing enough to supply their needs the year around. Most of the groceries they have had to buy have been paid for with their surplus eggs, butter and vegetables.

There is one tenant on the Randle farm who has five acres of cotton and works by the day for the landowner to take care of all his expenses, thus enabling him to be free of debt when he starts gathering his crop. He aids in the work around the house in return for his board, giving the Randles their extra labor at comparatively low cost.

One of the most remarkable records ever made by a Plant To Prosper contestant in this county is that of Mr. and Mrs. Katzenberger, winners of the Home Improvement Division. With a cash outlay of only $224.50, plus a year of hard work, this couple transformed a dilapidated, little "shotgun" tenant house into an attractive four-room bungalow with most of the comforts and conveniences enjoyed by city dwellers.

Landscape Gardener

The Katzenbergers have not always lived on the farm. When they married two years ago they were living in St. Louis, where he was a landscape gardener. Mrs. Katzenberger was a trained nurse. This farm was owned by Mr. Katzenberger's father, who had moved away 10 years ago and rented it to tenants who had done nothing to increase its value.

After the Katzenbergers married they decided to forsake city life and establish themselves on the farm. Their enthusiasm was somewhat dampened, however, by the rain blowing in at the windows and the cold wind whistling through cracks in the old, run-down house. They decided to transform the place into a comfortable home, although the prospect was so discouraging at times the couple felt like abandoning their idea and moving back to the city.

Systematic Program

Gradually, the improvements were made. First, repairs were necessary to make the house more habitable, then the occupants began a systematic program of remodeling and improvement, the audition of a new living room and new porch. Roof, floors, ceilings, windows and doors were replaced and new furnishings added to completely change the house into an attractive residence worth 10 times its original value.

Mr. Katzenberger's talents in landscaping show up in the flowers and native shrubbery around the yard, and Mrs. Katzenberger, who learned the habits of orderliness in a hospital, carries them out in making her new home immaculate. Now there's no more talk of going back to the city.

Negro Live-At-Home Winners Are Chosen

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 9.—W. M. Gordon Jr., Route 2, Sherrill, Jefferson County, and Roy McIntosh, Route 2, Blytheville, Mississippi County, are state winners in the Landowner and Tenant Divisions, respectively, in the 1940 Live-At-Home Competition for negro farmers.

The announcement was made Saturday by J. C. Barnett, district extension agent, who headed the State Judging Committee which visited homes of the finalists in the contest. Serving with Mr. Barnett were H. C. Ray, negro district agent and Cassa Lawlah, negro district home demonstration agent.

First Award $50

First place winners in both divisions will receive $50 cash, and are eligible to compete for the sweepstakes prize of $250 to be awarded to the Arkansas, Tennessee or Mississippi negro family which makes the best record in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and farm and home management.

The presentations will be made at the annual Live-At-Home rally at Manassas High School in Memphis Dec. 4. County winners will be awarded The Commercial Appeal Certificate of Merit, testifying to the farmers' abiliy and industry.

Other winners in the Landowner Division were Archie L. Nunn, Route 1, Colt, second; Leonard Farmer, Route 1, Earle, third, and Paul W. Kelley, Route 1, Clarendon, fourth. They will receive $25, $15 and $10, respectively.

Anderson Takes Second

In the Tenant Division second place went to Leroy Anderson, Route 2, Trumann; third place to Caesar Ward, Route 1, Marion, and fourth to Bert Vinson, Almyra. They also will receive $25, $15 and $10, respectively.

Gordon's farm contains 260 acres, of which 160 acres are in cultivation. His total farm receipts were $4414.52. Cotton accounted for $3100 of this amount. The family of six spent only $16.30 for food during the year, and his present food inventory is $2[illegible].

McIntosh's farm embraces 68 acres, with 60 acres in cultivation. This year he had a total income of $3193.45 and a net profit of $919.75. His largest source of income was from cotton, which brought in $2000. Meat and dairy products accounted for $241.75. The family of six spent $50 for food and now has a food inventory of $429.75.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Expect 150,000 Farmers At Farm Credit Meetings

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Annual meetings of production credit associations are being held beginning January 2 to extend through the middle of February, according to a report from the office of Cornelius King, Negro representative of the Farm Credit Administration.

These associations comprise some 525 cooperative credit organizations that provide short term credit, at a low rate of interest, to more than 256,000 farmers. Approximately 150,000 farmers in the United States will attend these meetings this year, if the attendance record compares with that of 1939.

In the production credit associations of eight southern states having a fairly large Negro population and membership (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina), some 50,000 individuals will probably attend the annual meetings. From 10-25% of the member-borrowers in the states mentioned are Negroes.

Substantial savings in interest charges are realized by farmers who borrow through the production credit associations. According to Mr. King, "many Negro farmers are availing themselves of this credit, not only because it is adapted to their farming operations, but also because the interest cost is 4½% a year."

Annual meetings of production credit associations present an opportunity for all farmers to secure information relative to the operations and services of these Farm Credit lending units.

Montgomery, Ala., Adver
tiser, Jan. 12, 1940-

Credit Agency Head Explains Its Functions

Auburn Stockholders Hear Jesse Hearin Count Borrowers

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 11.—Jesse Hearin, president of the Production Credit Association, New Orleans, told stockholders of the Auburn Production Credit Association and Alabama Extension Service workers today that the Farm Credit Administration, through three divisions, had 47,000 borrowers in Alabama.

Speaking at the annual stockholders' meeting, Mr. Hearin, formerly of Montgomery, said that in six years, the 26 Production Credit Associations of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana had loaned 85 million dollars and that less than one-fifth of one per cent of these loans had been lost. All of the loans, he said, were made to farmers.

Others who spoke on the program were Dr. L. N. Duncan, president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute; P. O. Davis, director, Alabama Extension Service; James L. Lawson, administrative assistant, and L. L. Self and E. L. Sizemore, supervisors, all of the Extension Service. County and home demonstration agents, here for their annual meeting, attended the meeting to hear Mr. Hearin speak.

"The Production Credit Associations are cooperative and the board of directors of each association is made up of farmers," Mr. Hearin said. "These boards of directors have the authority to make loans, and they make their decisions in each of the areas. In addition, each borrower of the Production Credit Association becomes a stockholder. When he borrows $50, he automatically purchases a share of "B" stock and is therefore entitled to a share in the activities of the association."

Mr. Hearin said that every responsible farmer was eligible to obtain loans from the association for livestock or crop production and that he wanted to point out that women can borrow money to improve homes just the same as farmers can borrow money to make crops.

Speaking of livestock loans, the official said that any sound endeavor, whether there was livestock or crops, could qualify for loans, and that while the production associations wanted farmers to liquidate livestock loans in three years, more time would be given if the project were sound. He said the work of the Alabama Extension Service in improving farm conditions was closely aligned with the responsibility of the Farm Credit facilities of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Davis said that he received many letters from farmers who say that bad crop conditions prevented them from paying the fertilizer or grocery bill. He emphasized that perhaps farming should be directed so that there would be less and less fertilizer and grocery bills on the farm. He suggested that farm credit be extended for longer than a six-month period and urged that loans be based upon a farmer's needs and not upon a crop.

The Extension Service conference, which opened here Monday, closed tonight with a network radio program dedicating the new studio in the Extension Service building following conferences on land-use, negro extension work, farm youth and other official natters connected with the Extension service program.

PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS HOLD ANNUAL MEETINGS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (ANP)—Annual meetings of production credit associations are being held beginning January 2 and extending through the middle of February, according to a report from the office of Cornelius King, Negro representative of the Farm Credit administration. These associations comprise some 525 cooperative credit organizations that provide short term credit at a low rate of interest, to more than 256,000 farmers. Approximately 150,000 farmers in the United States will attend these meetings this year, if the attendance record compares with that of 1939.

In the production credit associations of eight southern states having a fairly large Negro population and membership (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina) some 50,000 individuals will probably attend the annual meetings. From 10-25 per cent of the member borrowers in the states mentioned are of the Negro race. "I am hoping," said Mr. King, "that a large number of Negroes borrowers will attend the meetings of these co-operative credit organizations.

Substantial savings in interest charges are realized by farmers who borrow through the production credit associations. According to the farm credit aide, "Many Negro farmers are availing themselves of this credit, not only because it is adapted to their farming operations but also because the interest cost is 4 1-2 percent a year."

Annual meetings of production credit associations present an opportunity for all farmers to secure information relative to the operations and services of these farm credit lending units.

CO-OPERATIVES' GROWTH IN SOUTH IS FOUND RAPID

Federal Official Here on Tour Notes Sugar Mills' Success

Completing a tour of inspection through South Louisiana, Dr. T. G. Stitts of Washington, chief of the co-operative research and service division of the farm credit administration, in New Orleans Thursday said the growth of the co-operative movement in the section visited is encouraging.

"The co-operative movement, while old and generally accepted in some parts of the United States, is relatively new in the South," Dr. Stitts said.

"It is encouraging to see, however, the rapid growth which this method of doing business has had in the territory served by the New Orleans Bank for Co-operatives. Particularly impressive is the operation of the co-operative sugar mills which are rendering splendid service to the member farmers in their neighborhoods. The seven farmer-owned sugar co-operatives which came into existence during the last six years fill an important need in supplying additional milling facilities to take care of the increased Louisiana cane crop."

Dr. Stitts added that "it is pleasing to observe the progress which is being made by rice growers of Louisiana in developing a cattle industry as a natural adjunct to their agricultural operations."

"A good market for home grown meat animals exists in this territory and the rice growers should overlook no opportunity to profit from live stock which can be economically raised on a rice farm," Dr. Stitts asserted.

Farm Workers Here Cheered By Mortgage-Easing Plans

The Birmingham News
2-8-40
Birmingham, Ala.

Southern Agricultural Workers Association Hears Farm Credit Leaders' New Measures

Cheered by announcement that three new measures of the Farm Credit Administration will lighten mortgage-debt payments of farmers, and stimulated by President J. W. Bateman's challenge for a balanced Southern farm program, the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers convention swept forward today in a swiftly-moving current of remedial ideas.

Approximately 1,200 men and women engaged in agricultural research, experimentation, demonstration and education in 13 Southern states are attending the convention, which will continue through tomorrow. Tonight's highlight will be a cotton banquet and style show beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Tutwiler Hotel, with Miss Sallie F. Hill, editor of The Progressive Farmer's home department, as chairman.

A. G. Black, governor of the Farm Credit Administration, this morning announced adoption of three additional measures to lighten mortgage-debt payments of farmers who are seriously delinquent because of conditions beyond their control.

"Federal Land Bank and land bank commissioner borrowers who have had repeated crop failures or loss of income because of drouth, insect pests or similar clauses, are being assisted as rapidly as possible my measures designed to keep them on their farms and protect them against foreclosure," Mr. Black reported.

The plans announced by Mr. Black are:

1. Standstill agreement—by which all payments of delinquencies on a second-mortgage commissioner loan may be held in abeyance for a definite period so the borrower may become current on his first-mortgage Federal Land Bank loan.

2. Variable payment plan—under which payments vary according to the farm income, the borrower not being required to pay more than a reasonable portion in any given year. Designed particularly to enable the borrower to bridge over low-income years and recoup in years of better-than-average farm income.

3. Suspended payment plan—under which the borrower, for a definite period, pays a fixed amount from his farm income, the amount being less than his regular install-

Birmingham News

The Soil Conservation Service is battling to bring about "desirable physical adjustments in land use with a view to bettering human welfare, conserving natural resources, establishing a permanent and balanced agriculture, and reducing the hazards of floods and siltation," Louis P. Merrill, Fort Worth, Tex., regional conservator, told a sectional meeting this morning.

2-8-40

"Obviously," Mr. Merrill said, "such a program must look far into the future, while at the same time it gives every possible consideration to the present.

"Today's operator of the land burdened with faulty systems of credit and finance and with a too-heavy dependence on the property tax to carry governmental costs, and confronted with unstable prices of farm products, must receive some immediate benefits from the application of conservation and good land use measures. People cannot save their souls unless they can save themselves at the same time."

Mr. Merrill said "61 per cent of all the nation's land badly damaged by erosion is in the Southern states." He charged this up to "improper land use based on the fallacious belief that the land was inexhaustible; share-cropping and tenancy cash crop farming, fluctuating market prices and credit conditions."

Delivering his presidential address at a banquet last night, Dr Bateman, director of agriculture extension in Louisiana, asserted democracy in the United States "derives its nourishment from the soil," and further that "the hope for the future" lies with the farmer and his family "as an independent, resourceful unit of self-reliant living."

Dissipation of natural resources "saps the lifeblood of our economic and social order," Dr. Bateman declared, continuing: "It is self-evident, I think, that the land—and the people who dwell on the land—furnish the raw material that is fed into the social and commercial stream of our cities. Any threat to this basic source should be the first concern of a democracy which has its roots in rural areas."

Deploring the waste of soil and forests, Dr. Bateman said, however: "More serious than all the wastefulness of our material resources have been the results accruing to the rural people, the seedbed of our future population. Tragic is the spectacle of human poverty that followed in the wake of impoverishment of the soil."

Dr. Bateman does not hold the farmer entirely responsible for "a wasteful system of agriculture." Instead, he said, "the farmer had to exploit his land. . . . His immediate needs were so great that he had to discount the future. High interest rates dug deeply into his cash income and his land bore an unjust share of the taxes. . . .

Unduly was wealth extracted from rural areas to build magnificent cities in distant sections of the country and to provide luxurious comforts and advantages denied those from whom it was extracted. Captains of industry and wealth must take a full share of the responsibility for what created the agricultural pattern of the South."

Probably referring to radical agricultural ideologies, Dr. Bateman declaimed: "We must not permit the misguided uplifter to array the land owner against the tenant. We must not permit segments of our rural society to array the well-to-do against the poor. Class struggle will reduce all to the lower levels, not raise all to the higher. But we must remove from our society those elements which eventually may lead to destructive conflicts among those who live on the land."

Dr. Bateman said the challenge is before the economist, the sociologist, the editors and educators, the clergy and the bankers, the civic leaders, the industrial executives and the farmers "to devote themselves to the task of making sure that the next step on behalf of a balanced agriculture in the South is forward and upward." The farmer, he said, "must learn in the laboratory of his own farm the solution of the problem as it affects him."

Five men were honored for their work in agriculture, when Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, presented awards to A. Frank Lever, former South Carolina congressman; Dr. Harcourt A. Morgan, director of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Dr. Milton P. Jarnigan, of the University of Georgia College of Agriculture; Eugene G. Moss, assistant director of the tobacco experiment station, Oxford N. C., and Harry D. Wilson, commissioner of agriculture in Louisiana.

Farmers Have Prospered Under Farm Credit Administration Act

Courier
Pittsburgh Pa.

Farmers Being Educated to Help Themselves—Many Thousand Dollars Lent them from Federal Funds.

OCT 26 1940

NEW YORK, Oct. 24—Negro agricultural leaders from eleven southern states recently visited the Farm Credit Administration Bureau, Washington, D. C., as guests of Cornelius King, special assistant to the Governor of that organization. They were accompanied by W. N. Elam of the Department of the Interior and enthusiastically received by Governor Hill and other members of the F.C.A. bureau and Production Credit Associations.

Governor Hill explained that the Farm Credit Administration was a "New Deal" system under which the Federal Government was educating and training the farmers to help themselves. He assured the visitors that he appreciated the splendid work they were doing among their own people and was elated with the splendid results to date. He concluded his welcoming address with, "You teachers have a real opportunity to further assist in improving the business end of farming and placing it upon a much sounder basis. And by working together in this direction we can go places."

In his report, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1939, Mr. King disclosed there were 48 all-Negro Federal credit unions that, under Federal supervision, had made loans to farm members of the group totaling nearly $250,000. In 1939 Negro farmers borrowed $125,80 from credit unions of their own group. The interest earning amounted to almost $5,000 of which $1,5[illegible] was returned to the members of these unions in the form of dividends.

Eight thousasd one hundred and sixty-seven farmers of Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, borrowed $1,798,934 through he production credit associations under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration Bureau. Loans ranged from $50 to $5,000. They were obtained by the borrowers to buy seed, fertilizer, livestock, equipment, for repair work, alterations and farm buildings and home furnishings.

AGRICULTURE 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FSA Prepares To Assist Stranded Tenants In Cato

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 27.—Dark clouds of prospective eviction from their homes in the 39,500-acre artillery range area adjacent to Camp Robinson may have a silver lining yet for some 100 families in the Cato area, it was indicated Friday as the Farm Security Administration made plans for a leasing co-operative to find new farms for them.

DEC 29 1940

In all there were 340 families totaling about 1400 persons in the area when the leasing started several months ago. About 100 families who own land have signed leases and are reported to have made arrangements to move elsewhere. There were an estimated 170 tenant families, future plans of many of which are not definitely known.

Plans Submitted

FSA officials here Friday took what they hope will be a long step toward aiding these families when they submitted to Washington plans for a $25,000 corporation—the Camp Robinson Leasing Association, Inc., which, if given approval by National FSA officials, would lease large tracts for subleasing to small farmers who are being forced to leave the artillery range area.

The State Welfare Department is doing its part, too. Welfare Commissioner John R. Thompson revealed Friday that his group is extending aid to the needy in the area on "an individual case basis."

"For instance," Mr. Thompson said, "there was a 78-year-old man left stranded when the family with which he was staying in the Cato area leased land elsewhere. At their new location the family had no place for the aged man so they left him near Cato. We took care of him."

Another case of assistance cited by the welfare commissioner is that of a tenant who is getting no lease money from the Government and has to move. He will be given help in moving to another rented farm.

Aid Expected

Mr. Thompson said there were no plans for "blanket assistance" in the leasing area. Despite this, reports persisted that the Welfare Department had decided to aid all tenants who would be considered needy and eligible for aid under the department's usual procedure.

Help was in prospect from other quarters. Dr. M. F. Dickinson, president of the Arkansas Farmers Union, revealed Friday that Jim G. Patton of Denver, national president of the union, was gathering news articles, photographs and other information on the Cato situation for submission to Chester C. Davis, agricultural member of the National Defense Advisory Commission. Should this move fail, Dr. Dickinson said, Mr. Patton and other farm organization spokesmen would see President Roosevelt Jan. 7.

Caton residents Friday had raised $125, Dr. Dickinson said he was informed, to pay expenses of Dr. Dickinson and a Cato delegate to Washington to seek "outright purchase or a fair cash rental large enough to permit relocation of families elsewhere successfully."

Meanwhile, Army authorities reported 31,000 acres leased out of 39,500 needed with some 340 tracts signed up out of 461 in the entire zone. It was reported that all but 70 to 100 families had signed leases. Rechecking of appraisals are in progress in preparation for possible eviction proceedings as an aftermath of condemnation proceedings already under way in Federal Court.

Incorporators Named

Stanley D. Carpenter, Pulaski County farm agent; W. L. Crawford, state co-operative specialist for the FSA, and Howard Kidd, his associate, are prospective incorporators of the leasing co-op. It was stressed at the FSA relocation office here headed by Herschel Hardin that Washington has the final say on leasing plans.

The co-op would lease any large tracts available and sublet them to farmers who have to leave the Cato area, with the co-op to pay the rental in advance if necessary and thus become the creditor of the farmer it assists. The corporation would be empowered to borrow from the Government to finance its operations.

DEC 28 1940

Mr. Hardin said there were only about 35 applications from Cato for aid in obtaining farms elsewhere. There are about 50 land offers on file, he said, but very little of it fits the needs of the Cato situation.

Landowners of the Cato area held another protest meeting Friday night.

FSA Director

DEC 25 1940



Announcement was made here recently of the appointment of W. C. Davenport to the position of assistant regional tenant purchase specialist of the Farm Security Administration. Mr. Davenport is the first Negro to hold this position in Region IV, which includes, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Tenant-Purchase Borrowers

DEC 21 1940

Passed in 1937, the Bankhead-Jones Act authorizes loans to a limited number of capable tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers so that they can buy family-size farms. These loans are repayable over a period of 40 years, at three per cent interest. Since the program's inception more than 12,000 loans have been made, and this year $50,000,000 has been advanced to FSA by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for more tenant-purchase loans. This sum is expected to make possible 8,500 additional loans.

Recently, FSA made a study of how this loan program was progressing. It was found doing well. Up to June 30, 1940, tenant-purchase borrowers had repaid 97.4 per cent of the principal and interest due on their loans. Not only that, but the borrowers had made advance payments of $196,765. This was more than eight times the total amount of delinquencies—$23,658.

The FSA believes that this high collection record is due, to some extent, to the operation of the variable payment plan provided in the Bankhead-Jones Act. This plan enables borrowers to make smaller payments in poor years and larger payments in good years, instead of paying a fixed amount each year regardless of circumstances.

New FSA Districts Listed In Kansas

The Plain Dealer

SEP 20 1940

LINCOLN, Nebr. — An increase in the number of Farm Security Administration districts in Kansas from six to seven to allow more supervision and closer coordination of the rehabilitation program was announced today by George L. McCarty, state FSA Director.

Kansas City

Eighty of the 105 Kansas counties are in Region VII, which includes the Dakotas and Nebraska. The 25 southwest Kansas counties are not in this region.

Kansas

McCarty said the rearrangement of counties would reduce the number in any one district and would make for more effective operation.

New districts and headquarters are: District 1, Topeka; District 2, Ottawa; District 3, Iola; District 4, Eldora; District 5, Salina; District 6, Pratt; District 7, Norton. Former district headquarters, in numerical order, were Topeka, Emporia, Wichita, Salina, Kinsley and Norton.

District supervisors and their counties are: Lloyd J. Sconce, Topeka: Wabaunsee, Atchison, Doniphan, Brown, Jackson, Geary, Riley, Marshall, Jefferson, Nemaha, Shawnee, Pottawatomie.

Sam C. Richardson, Ottawa, formerly at Emporia: Coffey, Morris, Chase, Lyon, Anderson, Douglas, Leavenworth, Osage, Linn, Johnson, Wyandotte, Franklin, Miami.

Walter M. Crossen, Iola, formerly at Norton: Cherokee, Neosho, Bourbon, Crawford, Montgomery, Allen, Labette, Woodson, Wilson.

John M. Shirkey, Eldorado, formerly at Salina: Butler, Greenwood, Elk, Marion, McPherson, Chautauqua, Sumner, Sedgwick, Cowley, Harvey.

T. Henry Gile, Salina, former county supervisor at Kingman: Republic, Mitchell, Clay, Dickinson, Cloud, Lincoln, Jewell, Osborne, Salina, Ottawa, Smith, Washington.

Homer C. Wood, Pratt, formerly of Kinsley: Harper, Reno, Kingman, Edwards, Kiowa, Pawnee, Rush, Ellsworth, Rice, Comanche, Barber, Pratt, Stafford, Barton.

Clarence R. Collins, Norton, former Norton county supervisor: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Ellis, Russell, Graham, Norton, Decatur, Phillips, Rooks, Trego

FSA Gives "Man Farthest Down" Lease On Life

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Va.

Viewing One South Carolina County Exemplifies Farm Improvements Wrought By New Deal In 3,000 Areas

OCT 12 1940

Farm Security Administration homestead projects are much more familiar to the average reader than the Administration's more extensive work among farmers in the field. Yet, among Negroes alone, there are fifty farmers "in the field," getting a fresh start — a new grip on the job—through the help of FSA rehabilitation loans, for every one living on the homestead projects that dot the Southland from Virginia to Texas.

By no means could Clarendon County, South Carolina, be considered typical of the FSA's work in all its 3,000 counties, but it may well be used as an example of what can happen when a Government agency gets its program down to earth and digs in.

AT WORK IN 3,000 AREAS

In opening set-up, Clarendon County is exactly like the other 3,000 United States counties in which the FSA is at work. A county rehabilitation supervisor and a home supervisor, with field assistants carry out the plans shaped in national and regional offices.

The first step in rehabilitating a family is to see that there are food and clothes and tools to work with. Many of the families aided by FSA all unable to secure credit elsewhere, had none of these necessities when they were introduced to the program. These have been provided by a short-time rehabilitation loan, repayable in from two to five years.

Trained county workers sit down with the family and help plan its home and farm activity for the season . . . the kind of crops, fertilizer, amount of livestock and poultry and canning needs to keep the family in good health and to build a cash reserve toward clothing needs and repayment fo the loan.

Two out of every three loans made in Clarendon county—a typical deep South county in the heart of South Carolina—are made to Negroes who are tilling the soil of 78.3 per cent of the farms in the area.

A TYPICAL FAMILY

The story of Sarah Bell Ford, mother of eight children and with a 54-year-old husband to support, is specific instance of what FSA has done toward giving the farmer—the backbone of any economy—a new lease on life.

Journal

In 1933, Sarah Bell was working for 75 cents per week and had one washing for 25 cents. Digging and selling fish bait sometimes swelled the family weekly income to a maximum of $1.50.

Government aid stepped in, and, by a slow process, at the end of 1934 the Fords had a mule, a wagon, a plow, and 200 cans of corn, tomatoes, beans and fruit. Systematic aid and instruction in home and field activities prompted Sarah Bell Ford to write:

Norfolk Va.

OCT 12 1940

"Thankful to say I am still on the Road to Success. 1936 finds me with one ox, one mule, corn, hay, peas, 7 hogs, 8 pigs, plenty canned vegetables. . . My loan for the farm was $246. I paid $221.80 on my loan. 1936 leaves me still thankful . . . 8 children still able to be in school.

LEARNING AND EARNING

Mrs. Ford's account of 1937 and 1938 show even greater progress. In 1937, she borrowed $366 and paid all of it but $11. In 1938, she writes of having a beautiful bedroom suit and 452 quarts of canned fruits and vegetables. She writes in 1939:

Norfolk Va.

"1939, I am thankful to say I am on the road to better success. The praise I have for rehabilitation. It gives you a start to live at home. It is wonderful to be visited by these home supervisors. It gives you courage and spirit."

With the Ford family, learning and earning were simultaneous processes. Rising standards kept pace with repayments. In figures Mrs. Ford borrowed in the four years, 1934-38, $928.66 and has repayed $874.58. Her net worth has risen from $75 in 1935 to $543.55 in 1938.

Most of the supervision of Negro cases in this county—which has the best repayment record of any county in the Fifth Farm Security Region—is supplied by Negro assistant home management supervisors.

Helped when it was at the very bottom of the economic scale, this family is well on its way back to security.

OWNERSHIP FOR TENANTS

The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 made possible a second step in rehabilitation, opening the doors of ownership to farm tenants, farm laborers and sharecroppers struggling toward ownership without the necessary credit to achieve it.

According to the provisions of the Act, $10,000,000 was available for the fiscal year ending June 3, 1938; $25,000,000 was assigned for the year ending June 30, 1939; and $50,000,000 for each successive fiscal year.

OCT 12 1940

DEBT ADJUSTMENT SERVICE

--Little publicized because of its extremely personal nature, the Farm Security Administration's debt adjustment service hides most of its light under a bushel, although its committees, who serve without pay, have saved American farmers more than $78,000,000 in scaled down debts since the work began, nearly five years ago.

The procedure is simple. A farmer burdened with debts beyond his ability to pay, goes to his county rehabilitation supervisor for advice and is referred to the county debt adjustment committee. The men and women on this committee make suggestions for reaching a settlement fair to both debtor and creditor.

Recommendations cannot be enforced, but because both are saved by his friendly service, there is usually very little difficulty in making the adjustment.

In Clarendon County 66 debt cases have been adjusted since 1935, representing a saving of $8,669 on debts amounting to $33,928.

OCT 12 1940

With other phases which include the provision of written leases between landlords and tenants, this, in brief, is what is happening in one South Carolina county—a suggestion of the work that goes on month after month, in the country's 3,000 rural counties where the Farm Security Administration has undertaken to help the man farthest down in American agriculture.

Norfolk Va.

FSA Conference Is Held at Tuskegee

NOV 23 1940

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —The third annual FSA study conference held here, last week, ended on Saturday, with 108 of the 110 colored field supervisors of the Farm Security Administration, members of the staff, regional directors, outstanding students of social problems, in attendance.

Baltimore Md.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, in addressing the conference, characterized the FSA program as a "realistic contribution" to the agriculture of the South.

Fixing Tenant Holdings

OCT 17 1940

If every agency of the federal government could make a showing comparable to that of the Farm Security Administration, as measured by results in Bibb county, the outlook for the people of this country would be bright, indeed.

Frank De Vane, local director of FSA, points out that a few years ago, at this season of the year, approximately 40 per cent of Bibb county tenant farmers would be preparing to abandon their homes and move on, "looking for new lands to impoverish."

This year, under conditions brought about in large measure by FSA, only 7 per cent are expected to move.

Putting it another way, in the old days 20 out of 52 tenant farmers moved each fall. They had had no time to terrace lands, no incentive to plant fruit trees or to protect the orchards already in existence. There was no inducement to plant winter cover crops or to build or repair fences.

In short, they had no thought except to take as much as possible from the land and move on to more fertile acres.

One year after the beginning of FSA guidance 32 per cent of the families moved; after the second year, 20 per cent sought new farms and this year, as we have seen, only 7 per cent are on the move.

Most of the credit for this new stability, Mr. De Vane thinks, is due to the five-year lease, which gives a wider opportunity for the improved farm practices carried out by tenants under the FSA system. In the next three months 30 additional families will be added to the number receiving loans and supervision under the FSA program in Bibb county.

In farming, as in everything else, there are rugged individualists who succeed in spite of all handicaps, but there are others who need just such aid as FSA is giving.

FSA Produces Evidence Of Its Aid In Alabama

Coffee County Family's Winter Larder Placed On Display Here

OCT 26 1940

Approximately 450 office employes and officials of the Farm Security Administration and other representatives of agricultural agencies assembled yesterday in the city auditorium to hear and see what is being done for formerly distressed farm families and the progress they have made in their fight to win a self-supporting independence.

Exhibited in the auditorium and covering its entire stage was the entire reserve for the year of a Coffee County family attesting the success of good live-at-home planning to carry the family over the periods between harvests.

Members of the Pressly family appeared on the program to tell the F. S. A. workers what help they had received and how they had managed to put by such a store. The father, C. W. Pressly, 42, told of the distress of his family before applying to the F. S. A. four years ago. He told a story of some hardship, more success then proudly presented his display of 520 quarts of canned goods in 56 varieties of fruits, vegetables and meats, a variety of dried foods, fats and tallows, corn, meats, syrup and dairy products.

He told that his farm plan this year would include on his 135-acre farm 10.6 acres cotton; 19.9 peanuts 20 corn; one cane; one garden; 5.5 truck crops; six temporary pastures 24 permanent pastures; 45 woodland; two farmstead.

Other members of the family who appeared to tell of Farm Securitry help and guidance were Mrs. Pressly, 37; Clice, 16; Beryl, 15. The family also includes a five-year-old son.

Speakers, representing several departments of F. S. A., outlined the work of their divisions and told tales of "rags to riches" progress of farm families.

The States administered from Montgomery—Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina—it was brought out, give assistance to 100,000 families.

In Alabama since 1935, 36,000 distressed farm families have been helped to make a new start. By following complete home and farm management plans 22,230 borrowers in the State produced goods for home consumption worth $4,031,411. Practically all families enjoy improved health made possible by adequate diets from home produced foods and assisted by locally organized health associations which provide needed medical attention and services at a per-family cost ranging from $18 to $30.

Yesterday's meeting was one in a series planned to inform the regional office employes of the practical and successful operations of the Farm Security Administration.

FSA SUPERISORS, MANAGERS AND NURSES TO MEET AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

NOV 2 1940

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama—From seventy to eighty Negro Farm Security Administration farm and home management supervisors, project managers, and nurses will meet at Tuskegee Institute, November 2-9 for their Third Annual Study Conference.

Problems of farm and home management. adult education, rural health, development and management of cooperatives, rehabilitation loans, and debt adjustment will be discussed, under the leadership of Farm Security officials and leading non-governmental authorities on these subjects. Laboratory periods have also been provided for short field trips.

The eight conference seminars which will be open to a limited number of visitors, will present the following program:

Saturday, November 2, 7:30 p. m.: Discussion of Conference Program: Acquaintanceship meetings Sunday, November 3, 2: p. m., speaker: James G. Maddox, Director, Rural Rehabilitation Division, FSA. Monday, November 4, 7:30 p. m., speaker: Dr. Arthur Raper, Commission on Interracial Cooperation; subject: "Recent Trends Affecting Farm Life in the Southeast."

Tuesday, November 5, 7:30 p. m., speaker: Dr. Cornelius King, Farm Credit Administration; subject: Cooperative Credit Facilities and How They May Be Used." Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 p. m., annual banquet; speaker: Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, Tuskegee Institute.

Thursday, November 7, 7:30 p. m., speaker: Major J. O. Walker, Director, Resettlement Division, Farm Security Administration. Friday, November 8, 7:00 p. m., speaker: Forrester B. Washington, Director, Atlanta University school of Social Work; subject: "Adapting Social Work Technique to Rural Social Problems." Saturday, November 9. 2: p. m., speakers: C. B. Baldwin, Administrator, Farm Security Administration and Dr. Will W. Alexander, former Administrator, Farm Security Administration.

In a foreword to the conference bulletin, C. B. Baldwin, FSA Administrator, called Farm Security's job one of bringing "economic security to distressed American farm families."

"The first defense of any nation," he said, "lies in the willingness of its people to defend their way of life. That way of life must provide the essentials of a secure existence—security of tenure, decent housing, family health, and the opportunity to profit from their own labor. Whatever progress we make in providing these essentials is a contribution to the national security."

Declaring that there was no place where strength or weakness es would show up more quickly than in its work among Negroes, the Administrator called this work "a challenge to the ability and open-mindedness of every person associated with it."

The conference will be held under the direction of Giles A. Hubert, Rural Rehabilitation Division, FSA; Constance E. H. Daniel, Information Division, FSA; and Doris M. Porter, Rural Rehabilitation Division, FSA.

Conference instructors will include, in addition, Sam A. Mcmillan, Regional Chief of Farm Management in Region VIII, FSA, Jacob L. Reddix, President, Jackson College, Mississippi; Dr. Thomas Morgan, Chief of Medical Field Section, Region V, FSA, Montgomery, Alabama; Molly Flynn, Educational Field Supervisor, SA; and William Street, Field Agent, Tenant Purchase Division Region V, FSA.

On the list of special lecturers are J. Roy Allgyer, Community and Cooperative Services, FSA; Frank Pinder, County Agent, Gainesville, Florida, and Albert W Dent, Superintendent of Flint Goodrich Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. T. N. Roberts, Manager of the Tuskegee Land Use Project will direct the seminar, and J. Jerome Robinson, Information Assistant, FSA, will assist with reg

FSA Supervisors End Conference at Tuskegee Inst.

NOV 23 1940

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—One-hundred and eight of the total 118 colored field supervisors of the Farm Security Administration together with members of the Washington staff. regional directors and students of social problems concluded on Saturday the third annual FSA study conference at Tuskegee Institute.

The administrative committee for the Conference from Washington included Giles A. Hubert. administrative assistant. Rural Rehabilitation Director. F.S.A.; Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniel. information division. and Miss Doris M. Porter. assistant chief of home management. Also from Washington was Miss Molly Flynn. field supervisor. education unit.

Arthur Raper. author of research secretary. Commission on Interracial Cooperation. listed the continuing trends of Southern Regionalism as: (1) the plantation philosophy which is another name for feudalism. (2) the loss of natural resources through slavery to one crop system and exploitation of forests and soil. (3) regardless of edicts of economists. sociologists. agriculturists and even the Federal Government. cotton is still the cominant crop of the South.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FARM FAMILIES BREAK RECORD IN REPAYING LOANS

James Prague

Progress in Rehabilitation Program Is Hailed by Officials

1-31-40

Farm families participating in the rehabilitation program of the farm security administration in Louisiana broke all previous collection records, paying a total of $2,073,550.60 in 1939, E. C. McInnis, state director of the administration, said Tuesday in New Orleans.

"The collections show that 12,145 low-income families on the rural rehabilitation program are making definite progress in being rehabilitated, but collections do not show the full picture," said Mr. McInnis, who came to New Orleans from Alexandria, his home, Tuesday and returned Tuesday night.

"Loans to the rehabilitation families during 1939 totaled $2,695,423.28," he continued. "These loans are repayable over periods from one to five years. Maturities during 1939 totaled $1,970,000. While our collections include some delinquent payments, they also include some advance payments. We have still to collect some funds from the muskrat, cane and cotton sections.

"Progress of the tenant purchase borrowers is shown in the report that of the $18,181.64 which was due, a total of $16,588.33 has been paid or has been deposited for payment of the loan. The money was paid by 80 borrowers whose loans fell due in 1939.

"When most of these families came on the federal security administration program they had little except a desire to earn a living. Today practically all of these families have work stock, cows, hogs, canning equipment and some needed household furnishings. Many of the families will not have to have additional loans.

"During 1939 farm wives preserved 1,700,245 quarts of vegetables, 686,724 quarts of fruit, 80,158 quarts of vegetable juices, 109,617 quarts of fruit juices, 100,967 quarts of canned meats and fish. They preserved 1,300,560 pounds of meat, had 382,726 pounds of homemade lard, 614,175 bushels of potatoes, 95,629 bushels of stored vegetables, 179,914 gallons of syrup, 271,385 pints of jellies and 197,640 quarts of pickles and relishes."

Mr. McInnis said about $2,700,000 will be lent about 13,400 families in Louisiana this year.

FSA PROGRAM BOON TO DIXIE FARM FAMILIES

Tenants Are Now Able To Buy Equipment And Pay Debts

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 23—Race farm families are rapidly taking advantage of the program for their betterment as offered by the Farm Security administration, according to T. Roy Reid, regional director for the states of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

Typical of the progress that the farm families are making is the record of Mr. and Mrs. George Davis of Bolton, Miss.

Mr. Davis came on the program in 1935 after he had lost his mule and couldn't get another from his merchant. He borrowed $186.60 for a mule and furnishing. He was able to pay back $169.53 the first year leaving a balance of only $17.27.

In 1936 he borrowed $140 and paid it all back with interest. In 1937 his loan was only $85 which was paid. In 1938 the loan was $152.50 and was paid except $26.64. Last year he borrowed $216.45 and has sufficient cotton to pay off his total indebtedness to the FSA.

When this family applied for FSA assistance they had no stock, now they have two mules, five cows, eight hogs, 60 hens and 40 baby chicks. In 1935 Mrs. Davis had only 16 quarts of canned goods. In 1939 she put up 260 quarts of fruits, vegetables and preserves.

In addition to learning to raise foodstuffs for their families and livestock, some of the families make extra cash money by handicraft, making baskets, furniture and weaving hook rugs and other things which they sell to individuals in the nearest city or in some cases to the merchants direct in large lots.

Mr. Reid further says, "We are proud of the records that the Negro families are making. They are showing that all they need is an opportunity and a little guidance to become self supporting."

Sanford, Fla. Herald
September 25, 1940

Negroes To Hold Meeting On Oct. 2

George D. Livingston, area supervisor for the Farm Security Administration, announced yesterday that a meeting of colored farmers in Seminole County will be held Oct. 2.

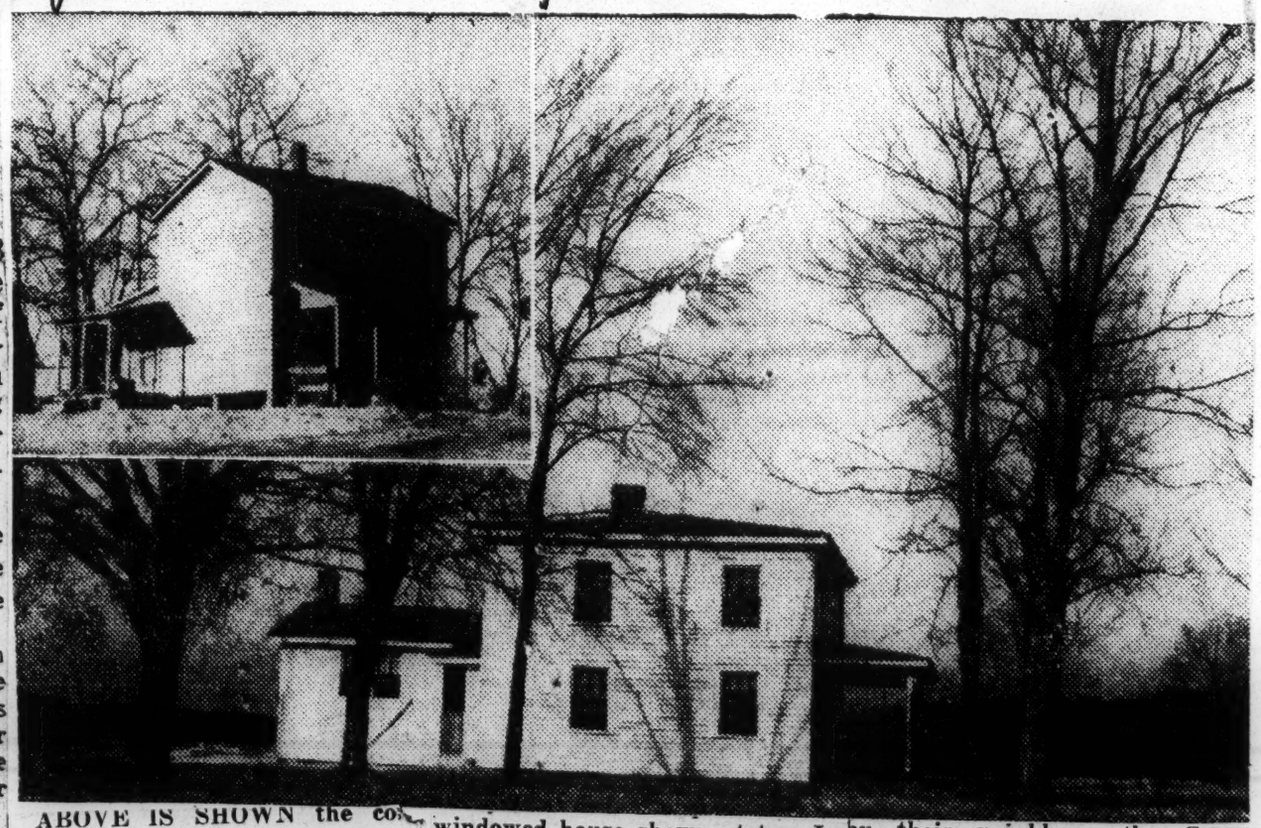
The meeting will be held at 8: P. M. at Hoopers Academy and its purpose is to acquaint the farmers with the workings of the FSA program. Forty colored farmers in Seminole County have recently joined the program, one purpose of which is to raise the standard of living among farm families, Livingston explained.

Talks on the various aspects of the program will be given by E. N. Scott, State farm supervisor; Mrs. Carry W. Foster, associate State home supervisor; W. T. Shaddick, district FSA supervisor; and Miss Mary L. McLean, district home supervisor.

County Agent C. R. Dawson and Home Demonstration Agent Mrs. Reva D. Andrews have also been invited to attend the meeting.

Farm Security Loans Rival Aladdin's Lamp

Journal and Guide 1-6-40



ABOVE IS SHOWN the comfortable attractive farm home of Dan Richardson, industrious farmer of Caroline County, Va. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson and their nine children bought their 175-acre farm (80 acres in crops and pastures) and repaired the buildings by means of a tenant-purchase loan from the Farm Security Administration.

They have just made their first crop on their new farm. Previously they had lived all their lives as tenants on nearby farms-the last six years in the unpainted, few windowed house shown at top. Improvements to the new home included paint, screens to doors and windows and a screened in work porch. The loan also provided for ample outbuildings and money for pasture fences.

The Richardsons farmed two years under the rehabilitation program of the Farm Security Administration, borrowing to buy work stock and other things needed to get in shape to successfully work their rented farm. They made good progress and were recommended by their neighbors, the County Tenant-Purchase Committee, for a loan to buy a farm of their own.

Under a variable payment plan which allows this family to make heavier payments in good crop years and light pyaments in lean years, the government will give them up to 40 years to pay for their farm, at only three per cent interest.

At the same time, the FSA is helping them, through technical farming advice and convenient operating credit, to improve their farm, and to develop a well-rounded crop and livestock program, with "live-at-home" as a first consideration.

FSA In One County Shows How Tenants' Lot Improved

NOV 10 1940

CLEVELAND, Miss., Nov. 9.—The Farm Security Administration in Bolivar County released figures this week on improvements that have been made by 137 low-income families since the program involving a three-way agreements among family, land-owner and FSA was entered.

Wintry winds will fail to find as many cracks to whistle through as in former years. Flies and mosquitos have been barred by proper construction, with the co-operation of the Bolivar County Health Department.

Sanitation Is Stressed

Improvements include installation of sanitary water pumps, erection of sanitary toilets and painting and papering of the houses. J. Otis Fowler, county supervisor, pointed to the program on Dixie Plantation, a 1068-acre farm 22 families have leased for 10 years from Victor Brogg of Memphis. Mr. Fowler said the 22 houses have been painted, screened and toilets erected and pumps installed at a cost of $62.76 per unit.

When work was begun on this project, the three-way agreement among the family, Mr. Brogg and the FSA provided the tenant would make certain improvements, using his own labor in repair work, fencing and soil conservation; the landowner agreed to furnish some materials and give the tenant a long-term lease, and the FSA agreed to furnish funds for a major portion of the work.

Disease Is Reduced

According to Miss Ruby Anderson, home management supervisor, the environmental sanitation program has reduced the number of cases of malaria, typhoid and dysentery; families are better able to work; cost of medical care and drugs is reduced, and morale of the families definitely improved.

As for the crops produced on these farms, Mr. Fowler said: "We've got swell crops . . . the families have more corn and hay than they need. Makeship storage facilities are not sufficient to store the harvest."

The average size of the FSA farm on Dixie is 35 acres; most tenants have farm work animals and sufficient meats and other foodstuffs, and an expected cash income to total $450. Winter cover crops are being sown.

Visitors to the plantation say the farms are among the best worked in the state.

Named To FSA

NOV 1 1940



Julius Jerome Robinson, graduate of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, is now employed as an assistant in Public Relations, Negro Information and Publications, Farm Security Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. He is also a graduate of Virginia Union University, Richmond, and is a native of Providence R. I.

To Federal Position

NOV 15 1940

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — (Special) — —Julius Jerome Robinson, graduate of the Atlanta university School of Social Work, is now employed as an assistant in public relations, Negro Information and Publications, Farm Security Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. He is also a graduate of Virginia Union university, Richmond, and is a native of Providence, R. I.

LOW INCOME GROUPS ROUT STALKING DEATH

Screened Homes Check Disease On Mississippi Farms

1000 FAMILIES BENEFITED

NOV 18 1940

Improvements Under FSA Sanitation Program In 36 Counties—Repairs And Other Improvements Total $300,000

Special to The Commercial Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 17.—Screened white houses, symbols of the environmental sanitation program of the Farm Security Administration, has given relief from malaria, typhoid and other diseases to more than 1000 low income farm families in Mississippi.

Seeking to eliminate diseases caused by bad housing, impure water supplies and general unsanitary conditions, the FSA this year launched 36 county environmental sanitation programs to provide screened houses, sanitary toilets, protected water supplies and painted houses for more than 1000 farm families working with the FSA, A. D. Stewart, state FSA director, said Saturday.

Health Improved

"Surveys showed that diseases carried by flies and mosquitoes were causing many deaths and preventing many families from working their crops due to illness," he said. "Working with local health units, the WPA and other agencies, the Farm Security Administration is completing an environmental sanitation program which resulted in improvements of approximately $300,000.

"As a result of this widespread program, the health of the families in these 36 counties has improved and present reports indicate we can except further improvement. We have noticed, too, that this program has inspired small landowners and larger operators to make similar improvements to their farm buildings, and inspired FSA families to build clothes closets, pantries and store houses, and beautify their homes."

The FSA's environmental sanitation plan is a co-operative program, in which the tenant and landowner work together with the FSA and local health units, Mr. Stewart pointed out. During the year, a total of $119,796.32 has been spent by the FSA on this work.

Repairs Agreed Upon

"Under the sanitation program, there was a three-way contract between the tenant, owner and the FSA which resulted not nly in the completion of the sanitary work, but repairs to hundreds of homes, barns, out buildings and much soil conservation work, fencing and landscaping," he said.

"When we made a grant to a family, we received a participation agreement from the landowner and a work agreement from the tenant. The tenant has to do improvement work on the farm to the amount of the grant and the owner was required to give the tenant a long term lease and furnish some of the materials for repairing the house so that it could be made fly and mosquito proof.

"On that basis, we can conservatively estimate that as a result of the program that improvement to houses, barns, and land total at least $300,000. No figures are available on the money saved by better health, which enabled the families to properly work their crops.

"Another phase of the program which was beneficial to the families was the way they learned to co-operate in buying the materials used in making the improvements. Through the county marketing and purchasing associations, the families were able to purchase materials in large quantities at lower prices. In Bolivar County this resulted in a saving of $1898.

Counties Participating

Average costs of the work in Mississippi are: Toilets, $14.62; screening, $15.27; well protection, $25.05, painting and papering, $13.86.

Counties participating in the program and the amount spent for sanitation are: Adams $1800; Alcorn $21,621.15; Amite $1,820.96; Attala $13,345; Bolivar $8698; Clay $3607; Copiah $12,456.52; Covington $1119; Forrest $968; George $690; Greene $504; Grenada $1075; Hancock $289; Harrison $3,729.55; Jackson $30; Jasper $1392; Jefferson $2100; Jones $10,419; Lamar $890; Luaderdale $9389; Lincoln $1,942.50; Lowndes $5144; Madison $11,895; Marion $2010; Monroe $21,383.90; Newton $285.60; Pearl River $6,412.75; Perry $640; Pike $1674; Rankin $1522; Scott $1948; Stone $504; Sunflower $1365; Washington $3457; Wilkinson $925, and Winston $25.

HOLD CONFAB OF FSA GROUP AT TUSKEGEE

NOV 22 1940

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—(ANP)—Of the 118 Negro FSA field supervisors, 107 members of the Washington staff, regional directors, and students of social problems concluded on Saturday the third annual study conference at Tuskegee Institute. Dr. F D Patterson, president of Tuskegee, in addressing the conference referred to the FSA program as a "realistic contribution" to the agriculture of the South.

The administrative committee for the conference comprised Giles A. Hubert, administrative assistant, rural rehabilitation director, FSA, Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniel, information division and Miss Doris M. Porter, assistant chef of home management. From Washington also was Miss Molly Flynn, field supervisor, educational unit.

C. B. Baldwin, recently appointed FSA administrator to succeed Dr. Will W. Alexander now with the National Defense program, highlighted the conference at its closing session Saturday night.

Dr. Alexander and Major J. D. Walker, former chief of rural projects, recently appointed assistant administrator, were unable to leave Washington. Both were scheduled program speakers for the conference.

For the first time, the 10 FSA nurses in the field had a separate section for technical instruction under Dr. J. A. Kenney, medical director, John A. Andrew Memorial hospital, Tuskegee. Miss M. C. Wade, superintendent of nurses, Washington, Albert Dent, superintendent, Flint-Goodridge hospital, New Orleans, addressed the entire conference on "Health Problems in Negro Communities." Dr. Thomas Morgan, chief of medical section, Revision V, also discussed problems of rural health.

Arthur Raper, author and research secretary, Commission on Interracial Cooperation, is his usual dynamic stule held his audience with an address bristling with challenging facts.

Atlanta Daily Journal
December 1, 1940

Wanted: Negroes To Be Landlords

CARROLLTON, Ga., Nov. 30.—Eleven tenant farmers in Carroll County are going to become landlords by next July 31, but there are no qualified Negro applicants to the supervising Farm Security Administration, and Director Myles T. Cook is baffled, because at least three farms must be turned over to colored persons.

Mr. Cook said apparently no eligible Negroes cared to become landlords, since the two or three applicants on the waiting list of 500 are disqualified by age or other disabilities, "and there are plenty of good colored farmers in the county."

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPR VEMENT OF

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Joyous Thanksgiving Ahead For Prosperous FSA Families

NOV 16 1940

By KATE HARRIS

LEESBURG, Nov. 17. — "Turkey 'n' dressing, 'n' all the fixings." That is what November 21 will mean to many of the Farm Security Administration fmailies in Lee county this year. And the rest will not go hungry —not with yards full of chickens, hills of potatoes and pantries full of canned snap beans, tomatoes and fruits.

It is going to be a grand feed, and neither the farmer at the head of the table, or the housewife will worry about how they are going to pay for it. Because these FSA families will be eating a home-grown Thanksgiving.

Last winter, almost a year ago, these farm families began to think about this Thanksgiving dinner, and all the other meals from then until now. They all sat down together, the farmer, his wife and children, who helped with the digging of potatoes and the canning. Mr. Pryor, FSA supervisor, and Miss Elsie Knowlton, home supervisor for FSA, were with them. Together they worked out a plan for home and farm. The number of acres available for cultivation was figured, then the amount of cotton, corn, peanuts allowed under the AAA agreement, with anticipated yields.

Then each family, with the help of the supervisors, worked out a food budget: the amount of cane and corn for molasses and meal: and the number of chickens and eggs. The 80-quart allowance of fruits and vegetables figured to an enormous number in the larger families.

Heretofore Thanksgiving has been a day of "do without" to many of these low-income farmers. They, like most of the landlords, depended on the stores for their holiday supplies.

These FSA families no longer do without. They grow their own. They are proof of lessons well learned: that a farmer lives from what he gets from the ground, and the more direct the nourishment, the better off is the farmer.

Twenty families in Lee county who had no cows last year at this time are now plentifully supplied with milk and butter. Eight families will be eating biscuits and pie crusts made from their own wheat, ground in the community. Before joining the FSA plan for food program, none of them produced their own flour. This item alone resulted in an annual saving of $20, which means new shoes and stockings under the Thanksgiving tables.

Along with this planning for home-grown food, the FSA families have developed new sources of income. Thirty-five housewives are making their chickens pay for most of the food that cannot be grown at home. These families are now getting coffee, sugar and other groceries by helping furnish somebody else's Thanksgiving table.

Improved health is perhaps the first thing the FSA families will give thanks for this year. They also can be thankful and proud that the average net worth of these families has increased from $35 to $535 during the past five years. Their landlords can be thankful for the approximately 1,500 acres of soil improved by them.

The county and community can be thankful that only 20 per cent of the FSA families moved last year as contrasted with the 60 per cent of tenant families.

Johnston, S. C., Herald
November 1, 1940

NEGRO SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FARM SECURITY SUPERVISOR

R. N. Smith, who has served the Edgefield County Training school since the beginning of the 1936 session, leaves this week for a short training course at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, to prepare for a position as supervisor of the Richland county Federal Farm Security work for colored farmes.

After a nine-day period of instruction, Smith will go to Columbia, his headquarters, and will have charge of the federal project in which 35 or 40 colored farmers are engaged.

Supeintendent of Schools S. N. Lott said this week that Smith has proven a valuable man in the colored school, and that the school had made considerable advancement during the five and a half years he has been connected with it.

L. B. Bowman, teacher of shop work and athletics in the school, will succeed Smith as principal, and a teacher of agriculture will be secured to take the subject taught by the former principal.

Dunnellon, Fla., Sun
October 18, 1940

FLORIDA NEGRO AGENT IS TUSKEEGEE SPEAKER

GAINESVILLE — Frank E. Pinder, Alachua county negro farm agent with the State Agricultural Extension Service, has been granted permission to participate in a regional conference of negro rural rehabilitation supervisors of the Farm Security Administration at Tuskeegee, Alabama, November 6-8.

The Florida negro agent, who has made an enviable record teaching at brief summer short courses for negro farm and home agents at Tuskeegee for the past two summers, will deliver two lectures on marketing fruits and vegetables.

Montezuma, Ga., Georgian
December 5, 1940

Macon FSA Group Highly Successful

By MRS. J. M. MOORE

An annual summary prepared by Amos Ward, manager of the Flint River Farms Negro rehabilitation project situated in the Montezuma district, shows that the 106 families, who are buying on long time payment the 14,000 acres which constitute the project, have made an excellent feed crop this year and sufficient corn and hay for all the livestock on the farms. Five hundred and thirty-five bales of cotton were produced on 1,291 acres, none of which has yet been sold, but was placed on loan, with the expectation of receiving a better price in the spring. No field peas will have to be bought for seed next spring, Mr. Ward said, as each farmer planted approximately five acres from which to save his seed. This planting is classed as a soil building practice and as such is paid for by the government.

More small grain is being planted this fall than ever before. Only 40% of the farmers grew enough wheat for bread last winter, but they are putting in wheat 100% this season. The grain crop is being greatly increased, Mr. Ward said, in order to have sufficient feed for livestock and to be able to reduce the large acreage of corn usually planted, giving more time to work row cash crops. For the first time they are planting barley at the farms as an experiment, to see if it can be grown here successfully as a feed crop.

Within the next two weeks the terracing of the entire 14,000 acres will have been completed. For the past three years the labor on the farms has been used on this work during the winter months.

The farmers are learning good farm management by operating under a budget which each one works out with the manager. They will receive from $21.00 to $25.00 per family during the seven months of next year beginning with February, which will be sufficient for their needs, as each family has one or two cows, chickens, meat, potatoes and vegetables and fruits canned last summer. Mr. Ward stated that 15 of the farmers have met all of their obligations and have their own money for operation of their farms next year.

Purebred hogs, mostly black Poland China, have been bought by Negro 4-H club boys and from these it is planned to stock the farms. A mattress center has been in operation all the year, using N. Y. A. help, under the supervision of the Extension Service, and the several hundred pupils in the project school have hot lunches every day, prepared from surplus commodities and vegetables canned from the school garden last summer.

The Flint River Farms project has been in operation since the spring of 1938, tenanted by the same Negroes, and is proving that general farming, under wise and thrifty management, can yield abundantly in this section.

[illegible] Commercial Appeal
December 4, 1940

LIVE-AT-HOME RALLY OPENS THIS MORNING

Program Will Honor Mid-South's Negro Farms

DR. WALLER TO SPEAK

Address Is By Texan Who Is In Charge Of His Race's Agricultural Extension Work—Others Also To Talk

By WALTER DURHAM
Director, Plant To Prosper Bureau

With 400 county winners and their families, Extension Service and Farm Security Administration workers, educators and business leaders of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi expected, the third annual Live-At-Home rally for negro farmers will open at Manassas High School at 9:30 o'clock this morning.

The program, sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee in co-operation with the Extension Departments of the three states, will honor Live-At-Home champions of 103 Mid-South counties who have made exceptional records this year in living at home, conserving their soil, diversifying their crops and improving their home and farm management. Special guests will be representatives of the negro press and the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, which will participate in the contest for the first time next year.

Dr. Waller to Speak

Dr. C. H. Waller, negro state extension agent of Prairie View, Texas, one of the Nation's leading negro agriculturists, will deliver the principal address. He will speak on "Live At Home for Security." J. C. Barnett of Little Rock, Arkansas district extension agent in charge of negro work, will speak on "The Negro's Place in Agriculture."

Others on the program include R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro agent; Rev. L. A. Kemp, pastor of Gospel Temple Church; Matthew Thornton, mayor of Beale Street, who will preside; E. R. Shockley, negro extension agent of Hardeman County, Tenn.; Walter Durham, director of The Commercial Appeal's Live-At-Home Bureau; Lewis Blakley of The Commercial Appeal; Rev. T. O. Fuller, pastor First Baptist Church; J. A. Beauchamp, president of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, and district extension agents of the three states, who will present Certificates of Honor to county winners.

Highlight of the day will be the presentation by Henry Hicks, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, of the sweepstakes prize of $250 and The Commercial Appeal gold trophy to the MidSouth sweepstakes champion. Last year this honor was won by Ed and Alice Hendrix of Bolivar, Tenn.

Music Is Planned

Music for the program will be furnished by the choral clubs of Millington Junior High School and Barret's Chapel and the Manassas High School Drum and Bugle Corps.

Following the dinner, members of the Live-At-Home Executive Committee will hold their annual meeting at the school, with Mr. Barnett presiding. Negro extension leaders have announced their 1941 enrolment goal is 25,000 participants. This year 19,830 negro farm families were entered.

W. C. Davenport Named Farm Purchase Specialist

DEC 21 1940

By W. C. DAVENPORT

RALEIGH, N. C. — Announcement was made here recently of the appointment of W. C. Davenport to the position of assistant regional tenant purchase specialist of the Farm Security administration. Mr. Davenport is the first Negro to hold this position in Region IV, which includes North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky.



W. C. DAVENPORT

Davenport's new assignment will have as its purpose the rehabilitation of low income families, aiming to increase the land ownership among Negro farmers. It is expected that many tenant farmers will benefit from this program.

He will be located in Raleigh where he will work through the FSA regional office located at N. C. college.

Davenport served as assistant county agent in Craven county during the summer of 1935 where he assisted with the 4-H club phase of the extension program. His notable achievements in the county pointed in the direction of cooperative farm associations aggregating the finest type of pure-bred livestock and poultry, practical and modern farm equipment, cooperative planting and use of community pastures, developing a slogan, "Do the best you can with that which you have to work with."

A greater live-at-home program became a reality by which many farmers reaped benefits.

Among the women of the same county home demonstration clubs were organized and many modern pressure canners were purchased through the cooperative method.

In January of 1940 Davenport was transferred to the larger field of Mecklenburg county, where he began a sound extension program for the rural people of the county.

With many of his original ideas put into the program to fit the most daring needs of those with whom he worked, his work was regarded by extension officials as being of the highest type.

Davenport graduated from A. and T. college in 1935 with the B. S. degree in agriculture. He is a native of Northumberland county, Va.

Demand For Loans To Buy Farms Is Swamping FSA

83,685 Applications Received With Funds For Only 1,644

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP) — The Farm Security Administration announced Saturday 83,685 tenants, sharecroppers and rural laborers in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina have applied for loans to purchase farms this year, although only 1,644 loans can be made.

E. S. Morgan, Southeastern FSA administrator, gave the following compilation:

State	Applications	Allotted Loans
Alabama	37,010	576
Georgia	30,293	528
Florida	2,557	65
South Carolina....	13,825	407

Under the $40,000,000 appropriation voted by Congress for the farm purchase program through the year ending June 30, Morgan said FSA would make 6,971 loans in the nation as a whole.

Aid is concentrated in counties having highest percentages of tenancy.

Through the Bankhead-Jones act, passed in 1937 after surveys showed 42 per cent of American farm operators were landless and the number increasing 40,000 annually, low-income tenants may receive loans repayable over 40 years at 3 per cent interest.

Loans, subject to approval by county committees familiar with both applicants and local farm land values, are large enough to provide building and land improvements needed for a sound program, Morgan said. Average loans the first two years of the program were 4,017 in Alabama, with an average of 115 acres a farm; $4,151 in Florida, 144 acres; $3,928 in Georgia, 137 acres, and $3,992 in South Carolina, 117 acres.

During the last fiscal year, Morgan reported, houses were built on 56 per cent of the farms purchased.

There were new residences built on 40 per cent of the Georgia farms bought, 48 per cent on those in South Carolina, and 68 per cent on those in Florida. Generally the houses have three bedrooms, a screened work porch, front porch, wiring for electricity and other improvements. The average cost for dwellings, both new and repaired, last year was $896 in Alabama, $916 in Georgia, $931 in South Carolina, and $1,223 in Florida.

Other construction, where needed, is provided for in the loans. Barns, smokehouses, poultry houses, sanitary privies, fences and wells, as well as terracing; drainage and other land improvements may be provided for under the FSA plan.

Ark. Negro State Chamber of Commerce Is Host To Race Leaders On FSA Projects

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—Nationally known Negro leaders in education, agriculture and publishing fields were the guests of the Arkansas Negro State Chamber of Commerce at a mass meeting held at Dunbar High School Monday night, followed by a reception at Philander-Smith College.

The party, guests of the Farm Security Administration, are making a tour of FSA-sponsored Negro projects in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The tour in Little Rock was opened Monday and continued through Saturday and was for the purpose of acquainting Negro leaders with the rural rehabilitation and resettlement projects of the FSA.

In Arkansas, the party visited leasing and co-operative projects near Lake Village in Chicot County and resettlement projects near Lakeview in Phillips County and McGehee in Desha County.

A mass meeting was held in the auditorium of Dunbar High School at which Dr. J. B. Watson, president of A. M. and N. College, Pine Bluff, introduced Dr. Mordecai Johnson who delivered the principal address. Music was furnished by Arkansas Baptist and Philander-Smith College and Dunbar High School Glee Club.

Directly after the mass meeting the guests were banqueted in the spacious dining hall of Philander-Smith College.

On Tuesday morning, the guests motored to the Thomas C. McRae Sanitorium at Alexander, for inspection of the new units of this outstanding institution. Dr. Hugh A. Browne is physician in charge at the Sanitorium.

The honored guests were: Attorney C. R. Richardson, Richmond, Ind.; Dr. W. W. Frazier, president, M. I. College, Holly Springs, Miss.; Dr. W. T. B. Williams, vice-president, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; Mrs. Lagora Sanders, president, National Federation Colored Women; Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president Howard University, Washington, D. C.; J. P. Davis, head field officer AAA, Little Rock; W. W. Blackburn, executive secretary, M. A. T. C. S., Jackson, Miss.; Miss Fannie Williams, principal Valena C. Jones School, New Orleans, La., and L. W. Swingler, managing editor, Memphis World, Memphis, Tenn.

The Arakansas Negro State Chamber of Commerce was organized more than a year ago for the purpose of handling the Negro affairs of the State of Arkansas. Dr. H. A. Powell is president; Judge Scipio A. Jones, chairman; Atty. J. A. Hibbler, secretary Citizens' Committee.

Dr. Johnson Talks In Ark. On FSA Probe

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 23—A number of groups of educators, agriculturists and newspapermen, invited by the Farm Security Administration to ascertain the present status of projects that have been established for Negroes in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, delivred the principal address at a mass meeting of the Arkansas Negro State Chamber of Commerce held at Dunbar High school last Monday night.

In Arkansas, the party will visit leasing and co-operative projects near Lake Village in Chicot county and resettlement projects near Lakeveiw in Phillips county and McGehee in Desha county. The following morning the guests motored to the Thomas C. McRae Sanitarium at Alexander, Ark., for inspection of the new units of this outstanding institution. Dr. Hugh A. Browne is physician in charge.

The honored guests were: Hon. C. R. Richardson, attorney-at-law, Richmond, Ind.; W. W. Frazier, president, M. I. College, Holly Springs, Miss.; Dr. W. T. B. Williams, vice-president, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; Mrs. Lagora Sanders, president, National Federation of Colored Women; Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president, Howard University, Washington, D. C.; J. P. Davis, head field officer AAA, Little Rock, Ark.; W. W. Blackburn, executive secretary, M.A.T.C.S., Jackson, Miss.; Miss Fannie Williams, principal, Valena C. Jones School, New Orleans, and L. O. Swingler, managing editor, Memphis World, Memphis, Tenn.

The Araknsas Negro State Chamber of Commerce was organized more than a year ago for the purpose of handling the Negro affairs of the State of Arkansas. Dr. H. A. Powell is president, Judge S. A. Jones, chairman; Atty. J. A. Hibbler, secretary, Citizens Committee

W. W. Alexander Rosenwald Fund Vice President

CHICAGO.—(ANP) — Dr. W. W. Alexander, for the past five years administrator of the United States Farm Security administration, has been elected vice president of the Julius Rosenwald fund and will take up his new duties, with headquarters in Chicago, on July 1 of this year.

Dr. Alexander, a native of Morrisville, Mo., and a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, organized the Commission on Interracial Cooperation 20 years ago and has been director of that south-wide commission from the beginning.

In 1935 he was called by President Roosevelt to organize the farm rehabilitation and resettlement then being undertaken on a large scale by the federal government. When the many aspects of this effort were organized into the FSA of the department of agriculture, Dr. Alexander became head of the new service which he has directed until his resignation today to take his new post.

Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
July 16, 1940

Negro Tenant Loans Now Available

Negro farm tenants, who may wish to apply for farms under the Farm Security Administration, may secure application forms at the office of J. R. Branham, local colored farm agent, according to a statement from his office this morning.

It is necessary for farm tenants wishing to secure farms under the FSA, to make applications this year even if applications were filed by the tenants last year, the agent said.

This office will gladly render any possible assistance, to interested Negro farm tenants who may call by in regard to securing a farm under the FSA program, the agent said.

FSA Benefits Cited In Virginia and Carolinas

Journal and Guide
Norfolk Va.
SEP 28 1940

The extent of the Farm Security Administration program of supervised loans is revealed by figures recently released for Virginia and the Carolinas.

In these three states, 10,405 Negro farmers, aided by small short-term loans to cover their most pressing needs, are moving steadily upward in their scale of living, repairing leaky houses, building sanitary sewage outlets, improving their food supplies, increasing their live stock and scientifically caring for their soil.

Of the total of 10,405 farmers, 1,662 are in Virginia, 3,141 in North Carolina and 5,502 in South Carolina.

SEP 28 1940

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The farmer, Negro or white, helped by FSA falls under a rigorous program whose first requirement is hard work and a willingness to learn. The first lesson for FSA farmers is to learn to meet their immediate needs by doing first things first. Family budgets are worked out setting forth the importance of food and feed production.

Lack of knowledge and lack of landlord-tenant cooperation in using land for subsistence production have contributed to the seriousness of the food and feed problem that is so closely related to high sickness and death rates prevailing in the South.

FSA home management and farm management experts, working with individual families have taught what food to grow, how to grow it and how to conserve it for future use.

SEP 28 1940

Their instruction and advice are backed by small loans for operating goods, including canning supplies and equipment. Gardens are planned to supply fresh foods during the producing season and canned goods at the rate of 65 to 80 quarts per year for each person in the family.

BOUNTIFUL SUPPLIES

A visit to the home of a Guilford County, N. C. borrower disclosed 700 quarts of preserved vegetables, 125 bushels of Irish potatoes in the barn and "a good fall garden coming in." In addition, this farmer had five hogs, four cows and 125 chickens.

Many FSA farm wives, boasting full pantries, depend upon pressure cookers, purchased at moderate prices, to preserve abundances of foods without taking time away from other home-making duties or from field duties.

FSA WORKER TASKS

Once a loan is made for necessary equipment, the job of the FSA worker is largely confined to helping the owning or cash-renting farmer follow through the plans to produce th ebest results.

In working with third and fourth tenants or sharecroppers, FSA workers have the task of convincing owners that permitting use of land for tenants' gardens and working together with tenants for land improvement is a paying proposition. The success of this task has been one of the least publicized and most important jobs of the FSA workers.

Written leases, giving tenants a hold on the land they work and providing compensation for improvements to land and buildings, are held by 81 per cent of all Farm Security borrowers.

EASY REPAYMENT PLANS

Repayments on time on Farm Security loans average seventy-five cents on the dollar. The program, self liquidating, costs $72 per year per person to operate as against $350 a year and upward for rural work relief.

Each year, families are "graduated" from the program and new families take their places. Their basic needs met through credit provided when most needed, fortified with new skill and increased knowledge, with all loans repaid, these families are off again "on their own" in true American fashion. More than 1,000 such families "graduated" last year in North Carolina alone.

SOME GAIN OWNERSHIP

Associated with this group of rehabilitation farmers, and also a part of the Farm Security program, are the tenants and sharecroppers—tenant-purchase borrowers—who have borrowed from FSA, as they would from any bank, to buy farms. They could not borrow from banks because they were workers without credit other than their record as farmers.

Following the same system of farm and home management and working with the same supervisory assistance provided for borrowers of the smaller, short-term rehabilitation loans, tenant-purchaser borrowers are fast taking the lead in forming in their communities.

Repayment on their 3 per cent. 30 to 40 year loans, approximate in amount the usual rents paid by tenants in their areas.

PROJECTS MISINTERPRETED

The projects set up by the FSA as guides for its developing program, are often mistaken for the program itself. Although their influence on types of buildings, methods of marketing, of developing cooperative and community services and providing medical care is considerable, they represent a relatively small part of the farm program and of Farm Security expenditures. They are the pattern, not the garment.

Benefitting from these developments in Virginia, North and South Carolina are 555 Negro families, located on nine projects, pointing the way for the thousands of small borrowers who are the foundation store of the Farm Security program.

AGRICULTURE * 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

FLORIDA

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
September 12, 1940

FRUSTRATED DEMOCRACY?

ST. PETERSBURG has 3,303 negro housing units and about 3,800 negro families—500 more families than units.

Out of the 3,303 units, 2,765 were "substandard" on a recent governmental survey. A "standard" house is one that provides only minimum decency and sanitary facilities.

The local housing authority has built 242 units in the Jordan Park housing project, and proposes to build 212 more according to the original plans approved by the city. The money will be loaned by the federal government and will be repaid out of rents. The city pays nothing, but has given wholesale water and gas rates for the multiple housing development in an area that has not been a good customer for city utilities.

Landlords and various representatives of landlords embracing ownership of more than half of the 3,303 negro units, are seeking to prevent a vote of the people which would authorize the city to go ahead and renew its deal with the local housing authority.

The referendum of Sept. 24 was called as a result of a petition which more than 4,000 people signed in a campaign of a few days last month.

* * *

The landlords' lawyer argues that Jordan Park extension is unfair competition with their substandard housing since tenants are eligible for Jordan Park only if they come from substandard houses. A further protection for landlords is set up by the local authority in that only negroes below a certain income level are eligible for tenancy.

In other words, the whole plan of the housing authority is to "compete" only with substandard houses, and to "compete" for tenants who cannot afford good private houses.

Surveys show that police, fire and welfare expenses of the city are highest in the negro area which pays the least taxes. That means the city has for a long time "subsidized" the wretched slums of our negro area.

* * *

The question now arises between the people and the landlords as to just how this "subsidy" shall be paid. We believe that a referendum will show that the people are in favor of better housing, and we don't believe the majority of the people of St. Petersburg want to violate any rights of property where any real rights exist.

The belabored and tortured reasoning of the lawyer's brief asking to enjoin the referendum is an effort not to protect property but to frustrate democracy by preventing the referendum.

The landlords have adequate opportunity to enjoin the housing authority if property rights really are violated. Instead of attacking here, they attack the referendum.

It is a move to delay, and the few landlords involved already have delayed the extension too long.

With more delay the landlords involved hope the $710,000 earmarked for St. Petersburg will go to some other city.

* * *

When the referendum was much in the news last month, The Times offered a column of space a day to opponents of Jordan Park extension. Thus far it has had no takers. We repeat the offer here. It stands good between now and Sept. 24, because The Times will hammer for the project between now and then.

Lake City, Fla., Gazette
October 4, 1940

ane Marketing Here on Saturday

Negro Farm Agents With White Agents Co-operating Hold Colored Farmers Meeting

Special crops to be grown for specific purposes through local growers' associations and marketed in specified ways in 1941 were the topics discussed in planning meetings of negro sugar cane and sweet potato growers at Lake City Saturday and in Marianna Monday. The meetings were attended by farmers and farm agents from the adjoining counties. One hundred or more were at each meeting.

The reports of the results accomplished by individual farmers growing these crops the past three years under observation of various State specialists and agricultural agents showed that the solution to three major problems incidental to growing these crops commercially in Florida has been found, and definite plans for their increased production for 1941 and the future were made.

These problams, according to the speakers and reports of the farmers were: Adequate supply of improver seed varieties, preparation of products for market and satisfactory market outlets.

It was brought out that there is a steady demand in local, or home, markets in some instances for Florida-grown sweet potatoes and sugar cane syrup, yet those commodities are being supplied Florida by farmers of other States in large volumes.

It was further brought out that the results of experimental demonstrations in farming have convinced the growers of Florida that they can cut down the acreage of other crops on which they are not realizing a sufficient income and instead plant a few acres of sugar cane and sweet potatoes and such other crops as recommended by the State Experiment Station, and follow the cultural methods of the State Extension Service together with the advice of the Florida State Marketing Bureau and show a profit in their farm operations in the future.

Speaking in both towns, G. D. Rogers, head of the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association, a former truck grower of Manatee County and now president of the Central Life Insurance Company of Tampa, in commenting on the results being accomplished by the combined services of the white and negro agricultural agents with local banks and business men cooperating in the several counties where the surroundings of both races can be made more secure and desirable, stated that an indirect contribution to the national defense program is being made by producing at home those commodities which in the past other States have had to supply.

Other speakers were J. W. Perkins, Jacksonville attorney; J. Lee Smith of the extension service Gainesville; Guy Cox, Columbia County agent, at the Lake City meeting. At the Marianna meeting an interesting address on the sweet potato weevil was given by North Dexter, State Plant Board specialist of Gainesville.

Local negro farm agents, McKinley Jeffers and O. W. Nealy of Columbia and Jackson Counties, respectively under the direction of A. A. Turner of Florida A. & M. College, Tallahassee, were in charge of the meeting.

Quincy, Fla., Times
October 10, 1940

NEGRO FARMERS TOLD OF POTATO DEMAND

A steady demand for home grown sweet potatoes and sugarcane syrup in Florida is expected to result in a heavy increase in planting of these crops, it was pointed out at two meetings of negro farmers called recently in Lake City and Marianna. The State has been importing both sweet potatoes and sug syrup.

The Florida demand for products would justify here in increasing the planted in these crops even had to reduce other crops ers said.

Russell Stephens, Quin farm agent, accompanied county farmers attended

Lake City, Fla., Gazette
October 18, 1940

Jeffers Raising Seed From Sweet Potatoes This Fall

New Approved Method of Sweet Potato Culture Being Used By Colored Co. Agent

McKinley Jeffers, county agent for colored farmers, is making an interesting and valuable experiment in sweet potato culture on his place near the new hospital, in the way of producing seed from vines that have been grown from sweet potato seed secured by him in Louisiana. The new method will result in healthier, purer, earlier and more productive plants.

The Louisiana seed was planted by Jeffers in flower pots and other containers, and the vines were later transplanted to the garden, and are now all over the trellis that had been placed for them.

Trellising the vines instead of letting them run along the ground gives them more air and sunshine and thus conditions them for putting out blooms and seed.

A final aid to production of seed is the "gurtling" process which Jeffers learned from Prof. Miller of the Louisiana experiment station. This is, simply to cut with a knife a little more than half into the vine on which the bloom is to appear, and split back about half an inch. This has the effect of holding the bloom and the seed pod.

Many people who have raised sweet potatoes or who have lived in sweet potato areas all their born days, will see something new when Jeffers finally produces the blooms and the seed.

Moreover he is doing something else new, indicating a much earlier sweet potato for Columbia county than is now the case. This is to cut slips from the trellised vines, keep them through the winter, and plant them as soon as frost danger is past producing sweet potatoes several weeks earlier than the present method.

Deland, Fla. Democrat
October 11, 1940

EARLY POTATOES SELL WELL

MARIANNA, Fla.—Negro farmers of Jackson county are cashing in on their crop of early copper-skin Porto Rico sweet potatoes, reports O. W. Nealy, negro farm agent. He says that potatoes from several acres, dug early and sold on the local farmers' market, netted $150 per acre. The agent conducted demonstrations in digging and grading the potatoes.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

FLORIDA

Lake City, Fla., Gazette
May 3, 1940

Improved Sweet Potato Culture For This Area

Farm Representatives Return From Study of Sweet Poato Culture In Louisiana.

A forward step toward commercial production of the Louisiana strain of pure Porto Rican sweet potatoes in Columbia and other Florida counties was made the past week when, through the assistance and cooperation of business men and Chambers of Commerce of Columbia and other counties, an educational tour was provided for local Farm Agents in four Florida counties to visit the University of Louisiana and the Louisiana Sweet Potato Association at St. Francisville, La., to study improved methods of sweet potato breeding best suited for farmers of Florida to enable other States in the commercial production of sweet potatoes. The counties represented on this tour were: Leon, by R. E. Wyer of Tallahassee; Columbia, by McKinley Jeffers of Lake City; Marion, by E. P. Smith of Ocala; and Jackson, by O. W. Nealy of Marianna.

Conferences were held with Dr. Julian C. Miller, head of the Horticultural Research Laboratories, University of Louisiana; R. H. Daniel, Vice President and Secretary, Louisiana Sweet Potato Association; J. T. Jordan, District Agent, and J. B. Garrett, County Agent of West Felicina Parrish.

An inspection tour was made through the Louisiana State Experiment Station and Laboratories. Detailed instruction was given on methods of care and maintenance of pure sweet potato seed stock, on raising plants by use of "flue heated" seed beds for early planting, on improved methods of curing sweet potatoes for table use, and on their value and use as good stock feed. By-products of sweet potatoes such as starch and the preparation of vines for hay were found to be of such importance as to make sweet potatoes one of the leading cash crops for the South.

Upon recommendation of the Florida State Experiment Station endorsed by the Extension Service and the Florida State Marketing Bureau, the Louisiana strain of pure Porto Rican sweet potato seed stock was recommended early last year when several thousand plants were obtained from Louisiana and distributed among selected growers in several counties in North and West Florida which gave satisfaction as to quality and yield per acre, so much so that an increased acreage is planned for 1940 throughout 20 counties among selected growers and educational institutions. Initial efforts began in 1937 to improve the sweet potato seed stock in this state.

Arrangements have recently been made to purchase 200,000 certified sweet potato plants from the Louisiana Sweet Potato Association and distribute them among selected farmers of Florida. Arrangements for the tour to Louisiana were made by A. A. Turner, District Agent, Negro Extension Service, Florida A and M College, Tallahassee, assisted by County Agents, white and colored.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
September 25, 1940

NEGRO HAS SUCCESSFUL SMALL TOBACCO CROP

A negro farmer near Hobe Sound has raised a quarter-acre of good tobacco, County Agent M. U. Mounts said this morning. He reported that he does not know of any other tobacco successfully grown in any quantity in this area

Lake City, Fla., Reporter
September 13, 1940

NEGROES REPAIR FENCES

Bushnell, Fla. — Sumter county negro farmers took advantage of the lull in production of crops during the past month and repaired fences on their farms. Fences on 50 farms were reeenforced and repaired, Alonza Young, negro farm agent. reported.

Gainesville, Fla. Sun
September 27, 1940

NEGROES SELL TOBACCO

Negro farmers in the Archer, Bland, Montioch, and Newberry communities sold 79,100 pounds of bright leaf tobacco for a total of $11,872.61 during the recent auction season, according to Frank E. Pinder, Alachua negro agent. The average price paid for the leaf was slightly above 15 cents per pound.

Lake City, Fla., Gazette
September 13, 1940

VISIT FARM NOTED FOR ITS PRODUCTION

A group of school teachers, negro farmers, rural workers and ministers from nearby counties joined in a farm picnic on the farm of John Mizell of Spring Branch Community, a few miles from Jasper, Sept. 3, seeking information about the success Mizell had with his sugar cane and other farm commodities. A nice program was rendered after which luncheon was served by Mr. Mizell, who reported that he had received a net profit of $200 per acre from his improved sugar cane and his modern new home (furniture included) had been paid for.

There are six varieties of sugar cane growing on his farm and he plans to ship a carload of chewing cane to New York next month. Mizell credits his success to the plans brought him in 1937 by N. H. Bennett, negro farm agent of Hamilton Co., supervised by A. A. Turner of Florida A.&M. College, Tallahassee. he group present expressed appreciation for the opportunity given to them and the attitude taken by Mizell in giving credit to sone one else. This they thought was so different from so many of our farmers and agricultural men.

Jacksonville, Fla. Times-Union
October 17, 1940

First Carload of Sugar Cane Will Move to New York

JASPER, Oct. 16.—A special order for a carload of sugar cane of the chewing varieties for Kuykendall and Carr, produce dealers of New York City, was delivered to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad loading tracks in this city today. This was the first carload of this commodity moved this season from Florida to the East. The car, according to N. H. Bennett, negro farm agent for Hamilton and North Suwannee Counties, contains 12,000 stalks, or 500 bundles, 25 stalks to the bundle. It includes the red ribbon and green varieties of cane.

The experimental production of sugarcane as a cash crop for small farmers of Florida has been under way since 1937 on the farm of John Mizel of Jasper, with a view to develop certain varieties of syrup and chewing canes as recommended by the Florida State Experiment Station. Production of the crop is designed to supply the increasing demand for these products in the markets in the East and the Mid-West, which enable the small farmers to become more self-sustaining on their farms.

Both colored and white farmers participated in the sale of this car to New York. They will also supply a carload to a firm in Detroit Mich., later in the month. The market for this commodity, also Florida sugar cane syrup has been promoted by the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association in co-operation with the Negro Farm Division of the State Agriculture Extension Service, supervised by A. A. Turner of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee.

Inverness, Fla. Chronicle
October 17, 1940

COUNTING ON POTATOES

MARIANNA. — Jackson county negro farmers are counting henceforth on the early copper skin Porto Rico sweet potato as a cash crop, as a result of the success they had with them this year, according to O. W. Nealy, negro farm agent.

Pensacola, Fla. News
October 10, 1940

FLORIDA FARMS

Agricultural Progress

GAINESVILLE — More Florida farmers will plant clover during the coming fall than ever before, reports received by University of Florida College of Agriculture agronomists indicate.

Encouraged by the results obtained by others who have planted wihte Dutch and other clovers during the past three years, many farmers who have not made plantings before will try out this fine pasture crop in 1940-41. The number of acres planted this fall is expected to be as large or larger than last year's plantings, but the number of farmers planting clover will be much larger than in past years.

Begun in north and central Florida about three years ago, the clover planting program has spread to the western part of the state and many farmers in that section are planning to plant initial or additional acrege this season.

BUSHNELL—Sumter county Negro farmers took advantage of the lull in production of crops during the past month and repaired fences on their farms. Fences on 50 farms were re-enforced and repaired; Alonzo Young, Negro farm agent, reported.

Senate Group Approves New Crop Loan Bill

$500,000,000 Measure Would Aid Farmers Faced With Surplus.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—(AP)—The senate banking committee unanimously approved a measure today to provide further crop loans for farmers faced with surplus crops as a result of the wartime curtailment of exports.

The bill would increase by $500,000,000 the lending powers of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which takes over crop loans made by banks and other local institutions. Officials said its present lending authorization of $1,000,000,000 was nearly exhausted.

AMERICAN COTTON

Although the consumption of cotton in American textile mills during the past season has been exceeded in our history only in 1936-37, the most notable feature of the cotton year which closed July 31 was the increase in exports. As against 3,326,000 bales sent abroad in 1938-39, some 6,175,000 bales were shipped to other countries during the past season. While this was an increase of nearly 100 per cent, total exports nevertheless still lagged far behind those of 1924-34. That the gain took place at all was the result, first, of the depletion of foreign stocks due to reduced exports of the previous season, and second, of the Government's export subsidies. Without the latter, indeed, exports would probably have been among the least since the war.

Despite the fact that Germany was cut off by blockade for most of the season, and was able to buy but 19,000 bales directly (as against 321,000 in the year previous), total German purchases of American cotton probably did not fall off by this amount. Shipments to Italy nearly doubled, and part of these were probably destined ultimately for Germany. The trend of exports, however, has changed abruptly in recent months, as a result of the spread of Nazi-Fascist control over most of Continental Europe and the extension of the British blockade. Although the Continent in 1939-40 took nearly double its 1938-39 purchases, in last July it took a mere 9,000 bales, as against 57,000 in July, 1939.

The United States thus goes into the new season with the entire European Continent—its major market—virtually closed to it. This market in the last prewar season took practically one-half of all American cotton exports. But now from 1,600,000 to 2,400,000 bales have been lopped off this country's foreign markets—close to one-sixth of the nation's total output. So long as the war goes on, or in case it should end with Germany dominating the Continent, the situation is likely to change little. The difficulty, moreover, is one that Government subsidies, like those of the past season, are quite unlikely to remedy. The American cotton problem promises, therefore, to become not easier but more difficult during the new season.

The Guest Writer

The Plight Of Cotton

(From The Jackson Daily News)

The Southland is now engaged in harvesting the annual cotton crop.

It is not a large crop, based by the standard of other crops, but it is quite too large for the world's needs.

And this ought to cause Mr. John Farmer to sit down at the end of each day's picking and do some serious thinking.

Our cotton year is from Aug. 1 to Aug. 1.

Cotton experts—men like Will C. Clayton and Oscar Johnston—do not think cotton exports during the current year will exceed 1,500,000 bales.

Europe is engaged in war. Europe may need cotton, but Europe isn't buying any cotton and has no money with which to pay even if it was willing to buy cotton.

Great Britain and Japan will be our chief customers. Might as well count most of the other nations out of the market.

What this means to the farmers of Mississippi, and our business interests generally, cannot be exaggerated.

There is a carryover of 10,500,000 bales of American cotton in warehouses, we are now picking an American crop which the Government estimates at 11,429,000 bales, and we shall plant another crop next Spring. Domestic consumption between now and next August is not likely to be more than 8,000,000 bales, which will be a record-breaking figure if it is reached. So the outlook is that we shall add nearly two million bales to the surplus cotton in warehouses by the time we begin picking another crop. And unless production is cut down more drastically, we shall continue to add to the surplus so long as the war lasts.

Undoubtedly there will be demands for further restriction of cotton acreage as soon as the cotton politicians wake up to the situation. And when such demands are made, it can be expected that there will be loud and angry protests from almost everybody who has anything to do with cotton production. The usual argument will be offered that cotton is our cash crop and we cannot afford to make acreage reductions.

Even if we can't afford to quit growing cotton we will have to do it on a smaller scale. We are in a condition akin to that of the Uncle Remus rabbit who had to climb a tree, even if rabbits do not climb trees, and the sooner we wake up to what faces us the better off we will be.

Cotton consumption during the next year, plus what we are able to sell for export, will not exceed 10,000,000 bales. We can't eat, drink, smoke or chew the surplus, which will be almost as large as this year's crop.

Farmers should start their thinking r
and decide to grow something else h
cotton next year.

Tractor May Evict 300,000 Southern Farming Families From Land In Next 10 Years

United States Bureau Of Agricultural Economics Makes Estimate And Admits That Perhaps It Is Placing Its Estimate At Too Low A Figure

OCT 14 1940

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—The tractor may displace as many as 300,000 Southern farm families in the next decade, a Government research report said Saturday.

This prediction was written into a 221-page volume entitled "Technology on the Farm," prepared by an Interbureau Committee and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

"The rate of family displacement," it said, "would undoubtedly be lower in areas other than those in which the plantation organization prevails; and in some of the rougher areas, mechanization will necessarily proceed slowly, yet it is not unreasonable to assume that within the next decade the number of tractors used in the South will nearly double, and that as a result some 800,000 families now living on farms may be displaced."

Estimate Placed Low

It pointed out that this estimate represented a displacement of only a little over one family for each new tractor, whereas the data for plantation areas indicated a displacement of two or more families per tractor.

"This would mean a reduction of 16 per cent in the number of tenants and croppers reported in the Southern states in 1935," it said. "Many others probably will assume the status of hired workers."

On a later page, the report said this displacement represented an even higher number of workers, as some estimates placed the number of workers per sharecropper family at 1.5. It said 350,000, perhaps as many as 500,000 workers, probably would be displaced throughout the country in the next 10 years. Then it added, "displacement of the lower number could readily take place in the South alone, even without the adoption of the cotton picker."

Adding to this grim outlook, the researchers pointed out that during the thirties, 275 white persons in the South reached 15 years of age for every 100 over 15 who died or reached 65 years.

"In other words," it said, "for every 100 vacancies there were 275 applicants. Among the negro population comparable figures indicate that there were 210 applicants for every 100 vacancies.

"Consequently, there must be a material migration from Southern farms or there will result a substantial increase in an area where farm population pressure is already acute."

As for the mechanical cotton picker, it said more than 800 patents had been issued on such devices, but none was considered beyond the experimental stage.

"Picker On The Horizon"

"The mechanical cotton picker can be said to be on the horizon," the report added. "Any scarcity of labor for cotton production would probably hasten its adoption, even at the 1940 stage of development, and would induce greater effort to perfect a more satisfactory machine."

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The authors rejected both the optimistic theory that this problem would work itself out and the demand for rigid checks on technological advancement.

Instead it suggested a variety of cures ranging from an agricultural Wage-Hour Law to a subsidy plan for the consumption of farm products by low-income families.

Not limited to the Southern problem, these measures include:

A rural conservation relief and rehabilitation program.

Extension of the benefits of the Farm Security Administration.

A farm placement service.

A housing program for farm labor.

Unemployment and old-age benefits for farm labor.

Expansion of the tenant-purchase program.

A requirement that all reclamation and other new farm developments be settled on family-sized and owner-operated farms.

Settling migratory farm workers on lands now owned by units larger than family-sized.

Extension of co-operative credit and encouragement of co-operative farming.

Extending further advantages to small operators in benefit payments.

Equalizing credit opportunities.

Expanding rural industries.

Training disadvantaged farm people.

Reorganization of the marketing system as a means of reducing distribution costs.

Export subsidies.

Strengthening acreage control, marketing-quota and agreement programs.

Race Farmers Among Main Benefactors of New Deal

Loan Associations Aid In Rural Rehabilitation

OCT 26 1940

NEW YORK CITY—Negro agricultural leaders from eleven southern states recently visited the Farm Credit Administration Bureau, Washington, D. C., as guests of Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor of that organization. They were accompanied by W. N. Elam, of the department of the interior and enthusiastically received by Governor Hill and other members of the F. C. A. bureau and Production Credit Associations.

Governor Hill explained that the Farm Credit Administration was a "New Deal" system under which the federal government was educating and training the farmers to help themselves. He assured the visitors that he appreciated the splendid work they were doing among their own people and was elated with the splendid results to date. He concluded his welcoming address with, "You teachers have a real opportunity to further assist in improving the business end of farming and placing it upon a much sounder basis. And by working together in this direction we can go places."

LOAN QUARTER MILLION

In his report, for the year ending December 31, 1939, Mr. King disclosed there were 48 all-Negro Federal credit unions that, under Federal supervision, had made loans to farm members of the group, totaling nearly $250,000. In 1939, Negro farmers borrowed $125,804 from credit unions of their own group. The interest earning amounted to almost $5,000 of which $1,554 was returned to the members of these unions in the form of dividends.

8,167 Negro farmers of Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, borrowed $1,798,934 through the production credit association under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration Bureau. Loans ranged from $50.00 to $5,000. They were obtained by the borrowers to buy seed, fertilizer, equipment, livestock, for repair work, alterations and farm buildings and home furnishings.

MUST BUY SHARES

The applicants for these loans, colored as well as white, are members of their local associations, have a voice in the management and control of the unit, and share equally in the distribution of dividends. The production credit members are required to purchase shares to the extent of $5 for each $100 of his loan. In this way the farmer-borrowers are gradually increasing their investment in these associations which is in full accordance with President Roosevelt's "New Deal" aims that these farmer members shall eventually have complete ownership of the whole co-operative farm credit system now under government supervision.

OCT 26 1940

It must be admitted that President Roosevelt's Farm Credit Administration Program has been a blessing to the Negrgo farmer. It has protected him from exploitation and loan-sharks and being forced into 'peonage' servitude.

NEW FARM SET-UP NEEDED IN SOUTH, SAYS ECONOMIST

Cotton to Have Place But Other Products to Play Part, Group Here Told

DEC 28 1940

It is now "rather obvious" that a new farm structure must be built in the South, a structure in which cotton will have a place but in which greater dependence must be placed upon other products, O. C. Stine of Washington, head agricultural economist, United States bureau of agricultural economics, said Friday in New Orleans.

Mr. Stine spoke on "The Cotton Situation" at a general session of the American Farm Economic Association which opened its annual meeting Friday at The Roosevelt.

The association is one of four economic groups which began a joint program in the city Friday. The other organizations meeting are the American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, and the Econometric Society.

"Diversity of production has long been advocated for the South, and with but few results," Mr. Stine said. "It may be observed, however, that when the price of cotton is greatly depressed farmers do find something else to do.

Key to Improvement

"A basis for permanent improvement of living conditions and secure sources of income for Southern farm families may be seen," he said, "through current increasing income from live stock and live stock products, reduction of expenditures for food and feed so as to increase the net income from farm production, and increasing production for home use.

"The increasing production of live stock seems now to be accompanied by a movement, more substantial than ever before, toward the production of feeds. This will, of course, broaden the income base and reduce for the farm as a whole the costs of producing cash crops, while at the same time lessening the dependence upon those cash crops.

"In order to make these tendencies carry through, the lowest ranks of producers must be lifted to a higher level of intelligence in production and to a higher

O. C. STINE



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

level of living. The extension of scientific knowledge as to how to produce and how market must reach the lowest level of producers. To them must be extended opportunities for improving their stock and equipment. The lowest level of producers must have greater security of tenure and learn how to use it.

Can Boost Income

"It seems to me possible to materially raise the net income to all of those now engaged in agriculture in the South. The development of opportunities for employment outside of agriculture, however, should be encouraged as an aid to providing greater opportunity for those who remain in agriculture.

"After the period of increasing defense expenditures and war efforts comes to an end, we should not be in a position of returning man power to the farms and find those farms as weak in support as they were when the men left them."

Mr. Stine emphasized that "opportunity does not lie in simply enlarging the units of production," but that with withdrawals of men from the farms it should improve the opportunity "for making readjustments by establishing more economic units for production."

As for cotton itself, Mr. Stine said, that "in spite of increasing uses in industry, the per capita consumption of cotton in the United States has changed but very little in the past 20 years," and "in spite of the development of substitutes, the world consumption of cotton has been increasing."

"We will probably have 25,000,000 bales of cotton on hand in the United States at the beginning of 1941 in the face of a decrease in world demand for our cotton. We are not likely to consume more than 9,000,000 bales during the coming year nor to export more than 1,000,000 bales."

Chief Problems

The principal problems remaining to cotton farmers, he said, are "how can we consume nearly 30,000,000 bales of cotton and fight the production of substitutes."

Discussion papers on Mr. Stine's address were presented following his talk. Calvin B. Hoover, dean of the graduate school of Duke university, presided.

George H. Aull of Clemson Agricultural college, said: "Cotton has supplied the Southern farmers' need for cash and, despite evidence to the contrary, it will probably continue to do so. The best Southern farmers, using the best methods on the best soil, can produce a class of cotton which can compete with anybody's."

"I see no enterprise which promises to fill a small part of the gap which would be left by the loss of the cash cotton crop," C. A. Bonnen of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical college, said in a paper read by J. N. Lipscomb of Mississippi State college. "Mr. Stine's intimation that the outlook for cotton is dark must be on the assumption that foreign polices remain the same."

Major Trouble

One of the major troubles in cotton consumption is "that you find nobody who feels the necessity of buying cotton," said Claudius Murchison of the Cotton Textile Institute.

"The buying of too many persons is determined by their judgment of whatever is offered them at the counter. How many women who go to a store to buy a dress are thinking specifically, beforehand, of buying a cotton dress, or have cotton specifically in mind when going to purchase house materials?" Mr. Murchison questioned.

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Cotton farmers will be "better off than otherwise" if increasing industrial opportunities in city and country take them off their farms, was the opinion of Bennett S. White, Jr., of the University of Kentucky.

"If our high level of industrialism increases, then the alternative opportunities in industry will mean the cotton farmers can become better off than otherwise," Mr. White said.

Discussing possibilities for cotton after the current European war is over, Mr. White said: "In the first place, it depends on who wins."

He named several possibilities and then pointed out three post-war effects "of which we can be sure." These were "the foreign countries will be poorer and the consumer will have less to spend, the impetus given by the war to synthetic fibers will be apt to continue, and foreign production will be on a high level at relatively low prices."

Any attempt then to keep high level prices in the United States "would mean the extinction of our foreign cotton market."

divisions than in the North and East, but the bulk of the excess agricultural population is located there, and both rural natural increase and the rate of increase in the working population is appreciably above the national average," Mr. Spengler said.

Even if 1,500,000 persons were shunted out of agriculture in the three Southern divisions and into manufacturing, there would, remain, as a result of population growth since 1930, a sufficiency of persons of working age to man the distributive and service branches of the economy.

Gives Reasons

"The output per worker in manufacturing in the South is susceptible of an appreciable increase," he said. Among the reasons he advanced for this was that one-third of all tenants and farm owners are unskilled; the amount of equipment per worker is currently low in the South, and data on the average wage and ratio of wages plus salaries to value "causes us to suspect the existence of a supraaverage level of profit, sufficient to induce an expansion of manufactures in appropriately located Southern states."

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He defined the Southeast as the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida.

"Only the Southeast has experienced an increase since 1919 in the absolute and relative number of wage jobs in manufacturing," he asserted.

"Texas and Louisiana wage jobs have remained fairly constant, but the absolute number remains below the 1929 level." After reciting statistics and showing charts on various areas throughout the nation, he said, "The Southeast thus appears to be the only large contiguous area where manufacturing continues to expand."

He pointed out that in 1939, 70.1 per cent of wage jobs in manufacturing were located north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers and east of the Mississippi river, where lived 48.7 per cent of the nation's population.

Lists Policies

Mr. Spengler gave five policies "suited to favor expansion of manufacturing, to reduce socially undesirable interregional differences and to secure better intraregional distribution of population."

The policies were:

"Present barriers to expansion, such as quasimonopoly in many of the industrial and labor sectors and from persistent deficiency of investment, must be dissolved.

"Information of job opportunities should be spread to increase migration to areas of relatively greatest potential opportunity.

"Far greater emphasis must be placed upon technical education and upon full mechanization.

"Regions slated for further industrialization can and should adopt the good and avoid the bad elements in the urban-industrial pattern of the current manufacturing belt."

Through surveys and similar methods, there should be made a "flexible plan for development of each region and this should be translated into effect through ample use of governmental and private funds," he concluded.

Discusses Power

Melvin G. de Chazeau of the University of Virginia presented a paper on "The Power Industry as a Regional Problem." Discussion papers were read by Robert W. Elsasser of Tulane university and Truman C. Bigham of the University of Florida.

"Gold has lost, probably forever, its important monetary functions," Charles O. Hardy of Brookings Institution, asserted at a morning session of the two organizations.

"The prestige of the gold standard has been destroyed and governments are no longer greatly concerned about the maintenance of stability of international exchanges, and there is no economic advantage in perpetuating a situ-

ation in which the mining of gold beyond the quantity needed for industrial purposes, is profitable," he said.

Because of the high value and easy transportability of gold, "it will retain a subordinate place in the monetary system and will be used for the settlement of international balances," he said.

Although he said it would be advantageous if the gold standard were restored, Mr. Hardy asserted that he had "no confidence in the managed currencies giving the world a better monetary system than it had in the past."

Discussion papers on the addresses of Mr. Hardy and Mr. Neisser were preseneld by Fritz Machlup of the University of Buffalo and William Adams Brown, Jr., of Brown university.

Also held during the day were round-table conferences on economic research, with Paul T. Homan of Cornell university presiding. The American Farm Economic Association, conferred on "Theoretical Aspects of Land Economics," David Weeks of the University of California presiding.

The Econometric Society held a general session Friday afternoon at The Roosevelt on "Studies in the Theory of Interest Rates," Oskar Lange of the University of Chicago and Cowles commission, presiding.

General sessions and round-table conferences of the various convening organizations are scheduled to continue today.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

GENERAL

SOUTH IS PROSPERING; COTTON IN DEMAND

Southern Belief That Europe Must Depend on Us

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 31—The South has had a fairly prosperous year, culminating during the last quarter in extremely active trading. Since outbreak of war, the demand, particularly for cotton goods, has been very active and the price of raw cotton has advanced rapidly. At New Orleans, the large retail stores have experienced the best year in a considerable period. One very large establishment claims to have had the largest business in eleven years.

The demand for cotton during the last six months of 1939 has been so great that offerings have been absorbed as rapidly as they have come on the market, and a fair amount of "loan cotton" has been released. Consumption by domestic mills has been very heavy—a couple of months have made new high records. Exports have also been large particularly since outbreak of European war. They would have been heavier if tonnage could have been secured.

Present indication is that the South, in the coming year, will experience even greater prosperity. With cotton supplies small abroad and the prospect that most of the foreign cotton crops will be reduced (particularly those of India and China), with poor prospects of delivery to consuming Europe, foreign countries may be forced to depend on American cotton.

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Less devotion to cotton and increasing attention to livestock.

Soil conservation and crop diversification.

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Dean Schaub predicted: "We're not going to depend so much on cotton in the future. We must get more interested in livestock—dairying, beef cattle, hogs and poultry. The area which produces these things more economically will be the one which survives. People in the South are not livestock-minded, but they must get used to it, although it is confining, hard work."

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Dean Cooper added that agricultural leaders in South Carolina were emphasizing the "live at home" program. "We are trying to get away from the cash crops," he said, "with the idea of producing more of the things we need. We want to purchase just as little as possible of the things that can be produced on the farms."

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MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES concede that conservation of soil is the most marked trend in modern agriculture. Destruction of the land, they believe, through both erosion and improper planting, long has held back the Southern farmer.

H. N. Estes, Brownsville, Tenn., superintendent of a CCC soil erosion camp, believes that at last the Southern farmer is awakening to the importance of diversification of planting. "Once the farmer learns to diversify his planting and then keep something on the soil at all times," he said, "his principal trouble will be over."

ALABAMA is cursed with soil erosion problems more than most other states, declared Ellis D Diseker, Auburn professor of agricultural engineering and research worker. The rough topography of the land, the warm climate and frequent, heavy rainfall is responsible.

He believes, however, that the Alabama farmer is conscious of this and rapidly is correcting the situation.

In his research work Prof. Diseker has found that a cotton seed planted on a firm, packed bed will grow and produce better than if planted in a soft spot.

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DIVERSIFICATION of planting was advocated further by G. W. McCoullogh, Minneapolis, Minn., conservationist, who believes the absentee owner of land is the greatest problem in combating this trouble. "The man who plows the soil," said he, "must realize that better land means a better standard of living for him and his children."

He urged that farmers "put their eggs in more baskets." Until we get still farther away from cotton our problem will not be completely solved, and once we rid ourselves of "King Cotton" we must not backslide to a one-crop agricultural system.

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ANOTHER AVID supporter of a wide diversification program was J. T. Vantine, Springfield, Tenn., of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

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OUR GREATEST GOODS in agriculture have been born of our greatest evils in agriculture, L. R. Neal, editor of The Southern Agriculturalist, Nashville, Tenn., said, pointing to the boll weevil and how it freed us from serfdom to cotton. He cited other cases.

The first farm experiment station also was an outgrowth of insects, he declared. The first such station was formed in England more than 100 years ago, he added.

"The Association of Southern Agricultural Workers itself," he went on, "was born out of cattle fever."

Editor Neel also declared that today the Alabama farmer was "conservation conscious" as never before.

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"It is the farmer who must actually conserve his land," said he, "and it is the farmer who must learn to use all his land to its best possible advantages. Then in turn, it will be the farmer who will reap the returns."

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DEVELOPMENT of more Alabama lands into pasturage and increase in the livestock industry will produce more money for the farmer, according to Dean M. J. Funchess, of Auburn.

"Of the 7,500,000 to 8,000,000 acres of our lands in use," he said, "less than one-third of it is devoted to the growth of cotton. From 60 to 70 per cent of the farmers' cash income is derived from cotton. In other words, less than a third is giving back in income and the bulk of our lands is giving nothing.

"What we need to do is to increase the farmers' income by developing the bulk of this land into other crops, such as livestock. If the farmer plants corn, he can't find a market for it, but there is always a ready market for cattle."

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ONE OF THE MAJOR problems facing the Southern farmer that must be solved before he can gain complete independence is that of marketing, say state commissioners of agriculture. Crops, whether cotton, corn, hay, potatoes and whatever they may be, they say, must be standardized before they can be marketed successfully.

The commissioners are holding informal conferences at the Tutwiler Hotel, convention headquarters, at which they are discussing agricultural conditions and prospects in their respective states. Among the commissioners here are Haygood Paterson, Alabama; W. Kerr Scott, North Carolina; Si Corley, Mississippi.

Harry D. Wilson, of Louisiana one of the five to receive association tokens in recognition of outstanding services to Southern agriculture at the opening meeting tonight, is at home in Baton Rouge with pneumonia, it was reported today.

Last year $9,000,000 were spent in North Carolina in promoting crop production, $10,000,000 for crop control and only $1,000,000 for marketing, says Commissioner Scott, which he believes is going at the problem backward. He insists that before speeding up or controlling production there should be some effort to improve marketing, in view of the reports that one-third of the population of this country does not have enough to eat while there is overproduction in most crops.

The movement started in Alabama several years ago by the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company and other industrial corporations to cooperate with the farmers in standardizing their products and aiding them in finding markets is praised by the commissioners who say it is a step in the right direction and if adopted by all industries and agricultural interests the farm problem would be solved.

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THE NEMATODE, a small eel-worm which works its way into the roots of various plants and stimulates cell growth until heavy knots are formed resulting in stunted growths and, in many instances, death of the plant will be discussed here Friday by plant pathologists attending the Third National Nematode Conference, a section of the convention.

Dr. R. F. Poole, plant pathologist of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station at Raleigh, who is chairman of the program committee, said the Eastern Seaboard is particularly affected by this parasite, nearly all agricultural and fruit crops being susceptible with resultant heavy financial losses.

"Crop rotation, the use of toxic chemicals and experimentation with resistant varieties of plants," he said, "are being used in the program to combat this parasite. Experimental work is being conducted in many state agricultural stations, as well as in different substations maintained by the federal government. The Nematode is a particular problem of the plant pathologist and is one that is causing them much concern. One of the greatest needs is for funds with which to carry on this work of experimentation."

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"I do not mean," he continued, "that we utilize that idle land in corn or cotton but in forests." He estimates that only 40 per cent of a perpetual crop. "We must 'sell the forest,' then the Alabama farmer can really prosper," Millsaps worked.

"The Alabama farmer should use 100 per cent of this good land. He can do this by turning to the forest as a crop," he added, and declared that great wealth for the farmer lies in utilization of the forest, which is

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He pointed to the long period that will be required to completely accomplish the task, but said that the long-range program, fortunately was lauded by the farmers in committee attempts to coordinate the league's non-political activities.

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Camilla, Ga., Enterprise
February 23, 1940

Farm News

By J. C. SCARBOROUGH
County Agent

FARMERS GET GREAT HELP IN 1939 FROM EXTENSION MARKETING

More than $4,083,000 worth of farm products and livestock was sold in 1939 through assistance of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, in addition to assistance rendered farmers in the purchasing of $1,055,000 worth of farm products and livestock, Director Walter S. Brown announced from Athens this week.

Georgia farm people saved approximately $339,000 last year in selling and buying farm products through assistance of Extension marketing, he pointed out. Of this amount, about $214,000 was saved on marketing, while a saving of over $125,000 was realized through assistance in purchasing.

Products marketed included poultry, livestock, and livestock products, hay, grain, watermelons and Irish potatoes, and other truck crops. Farmers were aided in buying cover crop seed, feeder cattle and pigs, farm mares and jacks, bulls and heifers, boars and gilts, fertilizer, containers, grain, hay, other feed, and seed for planting other than cover crops.

The marketing division of the Extension Service conducted 250 tobacco-grading demonstrations with an attendance of 6,500 farmers, in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A number of cooperative markets for farm and livestock products were also set up through the help of the Extension Service.

* * *

OVER 1,500 NEGRO CLUBBERS ENGAGED IN WILDLIFE WORK

With more than 1,500 members enrolled in the project, Negro 4-H club boys and girls are entering their fourth year of wildlife activities, according to a report by Alexander Hurse, Negro state club agent, to G. V. Cunningham, state 4-H club leader.

Three clubs are selected by each agent to carry on wildlife activities, Mr. Cunningham pointed out. "In addition to the wildlife project, 221 Negro Club members are participating in forestry projects and these are also considered as members of the group of wildlife clubs.

"The Negro Extension workers are teaching the club members such things as the value of planting grain for wildlife, studying native plants, trees, birds, and insects, constructing bird houses, and fire precautions," the 4-H leader continued.

"Emphasis is being placed on the value of game birds in helping farmers to destroy insects and in teaching the Negro club members how to preserve game by feeding and taking care of it during the summer when the birds are being prepared for hunting season."

At present, there are 28,045 Negro club members in Georgia, including 17,898 girls and 10,147 boys. Last year there was an increase of 182 in club members.

* * *

FARM FAMILIES CAN $1,091,000 OF FOOD PRODUCTS LAST YEAR

With the aid of home demonstration agents, Georgia farm families in 2,659 communities last year canned and preserved food products valued at approximately $1,091,000, according to Miss Katherine Lanier, food preservation specialist, and Miss Susan Mathews, nutritionist, both of the Extension Service.

Adult members in 30,958 families who were assisted in food preservation canned 2,307,857 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats, and filled 482,011 containers with jam, jelly, and other products.

More than 50,000 Four-H club members selected projects in foods and nutrition, and during the year they filled 664,132 quarts, and 134,356 other containers with farm products, and stored or dried 887,308 pounds of vegetables and fruits.

Recommendations for corrective feeding, in cases of abnormal weight, anemia, pellagra, and other maladies, were adopted by 5,761 individuals.

Lunches of school children were greatly improved through the efforts of home folk and school faculties. Suggestions for better and more nutritious home-packed lunches were followed by 11,666 families, and 461 schools prepared hot dishes and noon-day meals for the children attending.

In addition to work in food preparation and preservation, home demonstration workers carried on extensive activities in other fields of foods and nutrition. Among them were the budgeting of the annual food expenditures for farm families, suggestions for better-balanced meals, and recommendations for food-buying.

New Type Cotton Gin With Novel Principle Tested In Mississippi

Newspaper-treated

Advantage Is Claimed For 'Air Roll' Method Over Sawtooth Model

DEC 22 1940

GREENVILLE, Miss.—(AP)—A new type of cotton gin, embodying the revolutionary principle of "air-roll," is undergoing tests here.

Its inventor, Charles R. Berry, of Greenville, claims it is the first fundamental departure in cotton ginning since Eli Whitney evolved the saw-tooth method.

Berry claims the new method is an improvement over the standard cotton gin because the air-roll type does "a more thorough job in removing trash."

In standard gins, he says, the cotton is fed into a roll box which tightly compresses it into a roll through which the gin saws drag, engaging the lint on the saw teeth. The saws then pass through a series of ribs which remove seed from lint.

In principle this is the same method used by Whitney in the first successful gin.

In the air-roll gin, Berry says, the cotton travels continuously in an air stream from the time ginning starts and instead of using ribs to remove seed from fiber, high speed imparted to the seed by an air stream carries the seed from the saw while the fiber remains on the saw and is removed by an air blast jet at another point on the arc of the saw cylinder.

In this way, Berry says, more trash is removed with the seed and a better grade of cotton is produced. Another advantage is claimed in the fact that the saws in the air-roll gin revolve at 2,200 revolutions a minute compared with 750 revolutions per minute in standard grades.

"The principles involved will undoubtedly raise the grade of any cotton ginned through it over cotton ginned in a conventional gin of the present day type," Berry said of his invention.

"The cotton in this gin remains in a fluffed condition throughout the time it is being ginned, which helps produce a smooth sample at the press and which also facilitates the removal of trash."

The Fine Prospects for the Farmers

DEC 31 1940

WITH the Old World waging a great war, there has come added demands for clothing, munitions food stuffs and those commodities that only the land can give. After many years of problems as to what we will do with our farms, retiring some of our best lands as well as our best farmers, with the hordes coming to the towns and cities for relief, war has opened the way. It is well known that the poor demand for farm products, the clogging of the markets and the poor prices paid for produce brought about the crop control laws. These laws made unemployment on the farm without boosting the prices of what retired farm labor had to use.

With the munition factories running at full tilt the call for labor in the industrial centers, a new market opens for farmers. The Federal Government will doubtless lift the crop control act, or else modify it to the extent our people will be able to make a living on their farms. This will be a great day of rejoicing in the South. We have seen many fine farms go out of existence, farmers ousted from where their parents were born, forced exiles to the crowded cities, a mighty wave of crime, idleness and disease and a general breakdown of a wholesome order which it took ages to build up.

Let the lands be given back to the farmer. Take the farm out of politics and allow the hungry, thrifty people work them and you will see a nation of happiness and prosperity.

The rural church will come into its own; the rural school that has sent forth so many leaders, will again be in evidence and with the electrical improvements, the farm will be our first bulwark and for the first time in history the country folk will eat at the first table.

Atlanta Ga.

Under a system like ours we must have farms. The farm has long been the backbone of our civilization and without it America can never be the democratic America the fathers dreamed and fought for.

While we regret wars and war rumors, we hail the great blessing of the possibility that the farm will come back to bless humanity and form that ancient glory along our rural roadsides.

redict Tractor May
vict 300,000 Dixie Farm amilies in Next 10 Years

NOV 2 1940

WASHINGTON (ANP) — ecent release of a book, "Tech- ology on the Farm" prepared by Interbureau Committee and the ureau of Agricultural Economics, as revealed that the tractor in e next decade, may displace as any as 300,000 Southern fami- s.

Black Dispatch

The book stated: "The rate of mily displacement would un- ubtedly be lower in areas other an those in which the plantation ganization prevails; and in some the rougher areas, mechaniza- n will necessarily proceed slow- yet it is not unreasonable to sume that within the next de- de the number of tractors used the South will nearly double and as a result families now living on farms may be displaced".

The volume pointed out at this estimate represented a displacement of two or more families per tractor.

Oklahoma city

Based on vital statistics (birth and death rates), the report declared that for every 100 present farm vacancies (white), there were 275 applicants. Among the colored population there were 210 applicants for every 100 vacancies.

Okla.

"Consequently, there must be a material migration from Southern farms or there will result a substantial increase in an area where farm population pressure is already acute".

As for the mechanical cotton-picker, the book stated that more than 800 patents had been issued on such devices, but none was considered beyond the experimental stage.

A NEW USE FOR WASTE COTTON-SEED HULLS

It has recently been announced by the University of Tennessee Research Corporation that a successful, low-cost plastic has been developed by processing cotton seed hulls. The plastic is deep black, very durable, and is described by John F. Leahy, head of the research group, as the cheapest plastic on the market.

NOV 3 1940

Cotton seed hulls have been used for feed and occasionally for fertilizer in the south but they are generally considered a waste product of the cotton seed oil extraction process.

Montgomery advertiser

The Daily News Record, a trade magazine of the textile industry, writes as follows about the new development:

Experiments are continuing at the university on the possibility of spinning a yarn similar to wool from this compound. This project is looked upon optimistically as laboratory work elsewhere is considered to have demonstrated the likelihood of obtaining such a protein fiber.

Montgomery ala

The new plastic is at present being used to make sheaves for textile looms by a Knoxville company, National Plastics, Inc., but its potential applications are considered to be very broad.

For test purposes, the new plastic compound was sent to a Chicago plant where actual samples of ash trays, ice tea coasters, and other articles were moulded. Its suitability for electrical appliance parts, radio cabinets, tile board for walls fountain pens, telephone, automobile parts, etc., is indicated by the tests made, according to Mr. Leahy.

ala.

The invention and discoveries developed by the school will be released to industry through a non-profit organization, the University of Tennessee Research Corporation, whose officers include the president of the university, Dr. James D. Hoskins, as well as other university trustees and officials, and Tennessee industrialists.

The importance of the plastic in the business world is increased by the fact that it is made from a waste product, cottonseed hull, into a hard, black, durable material. Cottonseed hulls up to this time have been used by farmers only to burn for fuel or to feed cattle.

The development of the new plastic is based on six years of work. Special cottonseed oil pressure cookers which reduce the time necessary for processing the hulls from two hours to 15 minutes, also were developed and are now in use in several mills.

Director Leahy believes such developments such as these may enable American cotton to compete for the world market. He emphasized that the purpose of the university's research is "to expand the value and uses of cottonseed to the end that cottonseed may become the principal product and staple cotton the byproduct of the cotton plant."

While this new plastic is still in the experimental stage, it offers greater promise than any other since the value of cotton seed oil was discovered for restoring cotton as a profitable crop.

Cotton will never again be the one great crop of the south, but when it is stabilized in its proper place in our southern agricultural economy, it will have to be a profitable crop.

Without calling upon memory for too many specific statistics, it is generally true that cotton has ceased to be a truly profitable crop except in three or four highly favored areas of the southeast. To be sure people still live off cotton all over the southeast, but they do so because of a munificent government policy which attempts to ease the strain of a sudden and devastating change from one type of economy to another.

The idea that either industry or agriculture can be forever subsidized contradicts a fundamental law of nature, that energy neither be created nor destroyed, that matter can neither be created nor destroyed, that wealth can either be created or destroyd. The fundamental law is that they can be transformed so that they can be better utilized.

Almost in spite of a protective tariff industry in the United States reached a high state of efficiency long before the tariff walls which protected it began crumbling. Now that they are crumbling, it is to be expected that our industry will reach even greater heights of efficiency than possible under a protection system.

Likewise with agriculture, even though agriculture is just now beginning to feel the effects of economic protection. Today agriculture is receiving protection from industry in the form of subsidies. Industry was first given protection against competing industry, but that protection made it the economic enemy of its side by side companion, agriculture.

There is but one way out of the economic morass, and it is being followed by the present Democratic administration.

Agriculture must be given an opportunity to increase its efficiency to the level of industry and at the same time be protected against the rigors of sudden change necessitated by many years of stagnating exploitation by a protected industry. It is fighting fire with fire, but that is often necessary when things get out of control.

The United States is increasing its agricultural efficiency even while uneconomic crops are being discarded or modified. The process of modification is as important as that of rejection, and all steps in that direction deserve wide attention.

Farm Income For 1940 Gains Over 1939 And Is Second Best Reported Since 1929 Season

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tenn.

NOV 11 1940

Outlook For 1941 Is For Approximately Same Production, But With Price At Better Level; Domestic Demand Increases

WASHINGTON, D. C. Nov. 10.—Farmers are bringing to a close another year of abundant production, according to recent reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Prices of farm products have averaged higher this year to date than in 1939, and the cash farm income for 1940, which is estimated at nine billion dollars, is the second largest since 1929.

The Bureau said that domestic demand for farm products continues good, and is expected to increase in 1941. In best position are farmers producing chiefly for the domestic market. Exports continue to decline as continental European markets have been cut off by war blockades. United States exports of farm products will continue to be small through 1941.

Production About Same

Plans for 1941 farm production, now being made, are estimated to be about the same as in 1940. Favorable price and income outlook for 1941 is contingent, the Bureau said, upon maintenance of current agricultural adjustments by farmers in order to obtain maximum benefits from increased domestic demand. Supplies of food, feed and fibers are fully adequate for current needs plus carry-over.

Income Declining

The Bureau reported that farm cash income is declining seasonally, but that the total compares favorably with 1939 figures. Income in the last quarter of the year may be slightly larger than in the fourth quarter of 1939 when total from marketings and Government payments was about $2,750,000,000. Prices of practically all farm products except hogs and chickens averaged higher in the first 10 months of this year compared with last.

1941 Farm Income Expected To Show Increase Resulting From Demand Improvement

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.
NOV 4/1940

Domestic Consumption Will Be Important, And If This Keeps Up Home Consumed Products May Go Higher, Government Figures Indicate

Special to The Commercial Appeal

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—A 1941 farm outlook that includes prospects for continued improvement in domestic demand for farm products, smaller agricultural exports, a higher average of prices and larger total cash income from marketing was reported Saturday by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The bureau said that 1941 farm income, including Government payments, is expected to exceed $9,000,000,000, and may be the largest since 1929. A part of the increase in income in 1941 over 1940 will be offset by increased costs of commodities and services used in farm production, but the remainder will go for improvements in the agricultural plant and a better level of farm living, the bureau said.

Carryover To Be Large

The favorable farm outlook for 1941, it was indicated, is contingent upon an agricultural production of about the same volume as in 1940 since with large carryover stocks of several commodities, the total supply of farm products will be fully adequate for the country's needs.

Discussing the 1941 farm outlook, the report of the bureau said in part:

"Greater consumer purchasing power in the United States in 1941 compared with 1940 is expected to result in improved demand for farm products. Consumer incomes will reflect not only a substantial gain in industrial production, but also the gradual cumulative effects of the general improvement in business conditions during the past two years. The rapidly expanding program for national defense is chiefly to be credited with the anticipated increase in industrial production, employment and consumer incomes.

"Export demand for United States farm products is likely to be worse in 1941 than it was in 1940. Continental European markets are virtually closed. They will be closed so long as present hostilities continue. Exports of soy beans, feedstuffs and other products to Denmark, The Netherlands, or other continental countries will be greatly reduced. Cotton exports to Great Britain and other countries are expected to be much smaller in 1941 than in 1940. World supplies of wheat are large. Great Britain can obtain all needed supplies from the dominions. War restrictions on imports of fruits and miscellaneous products by the United Kingdom will be continued and may be more stringent in 1941 than in 1940.

Larger Incomes Expected

"Larger cash income from marketings of farm products and increased costs of farm production are in prospect for 1941. Basis for this outlook is a prospective increase in prices of farm products and an increase in the general level of prices of commodities and services used in farm production. The higher prices of farm products will be induced by improvement in consumer buying power and a rise in the general level of wholesale prices of all commodities. Higher prices of commodities and services used in farm production are expected to result from the increased demand for materials and men in the production of industrial goods for national defense.

"The exact extent of the prospective rise in prices of farm products and in the costs of production cannot be predicted. It is probable, however, that part of the increase in income from farm marketings may be offset by the higher costs of production. Another consideration is that not all farm products will share in the higher prices. The market for several major export crops will probably be restricted by reduced foreign demand, and prices of these crops will be supported largely by Government loan and export programs. Income from livestock and livestock products is expected to increase more than the income from crops.

"The trend of farm income will be similar to that of farm prices, since farm production is expected to be about the same as, or only slightly smaller than in 1940. Increased incomes from poultry products are indicated by prospects for more nearly normal supplies in 1941 and for improved consumer incomes. Improvement in the income from farm crops appears most likely in the returns from vegetables and from fruits consumed largely in domestic markets. Income from grains, cotton and tobacco is likely to be maintained by loan programs despite relatively large carryovers and small export outlets.

Some Rises To Be Sharp

"The rise in prices of farm products is likely to be most pronounced for commodities which are normally consumed almost entirely

Jasper, Ala., Eagle
November 21, 1940

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SURPLUS MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

THE FOOD STAMP PLAN

HOW IT WILL OPERATE IN WALKER COUNTY

For Persons Certiied for Public Assistance and Persons Working or Certified to Work on W. P. A. Projects in Walker County.

THE FOOD STAMP PLAN, a new method of distributing surplus foods, is being put into operation in Walker County by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State and County Governments, the local wholesale and retail merchants, and the banks.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FOOD STAMP PLAN is to make use of surplus food products by making such foods available to persons certified for public aid or persons employed on W .P. A. projects at security wages. Many of these families, all of whom will be eligible to participate in the new plan, have been going without enough of the foods that are needed to keep children and grownup people healthy and at the same time farmers have more of these foods than consumers now buy. The Food Stamp Plan gives these families an opportunity to obtain more food; gives the farmer a broader market for his products; and uses normal trade channels to effect these objectives.

AFTER THE FOOD STAMP PLAN begins operating in Walker County the former method of giving surplus foods in bulk to needy persons will be discontinued. Instead, those persons taking part in the new plan will be able, by using the Food Stamps, to obtain surplus foods through their grocer or other retail food merchants. The merchants may obtain these foods from wholesalers as usual.

THREE METHODS OF DISTRIBUTING FOOD ORDER STAMPS WILL BE USED IN WALKER COUNTY

Only families cooking their food at home will be eligible to take part in the Food Stamp Plan. This regulation applies to families of every size, including one-member families.

PLAN NO. 1

FOR CERTIFIED WPA EMPLOYED CASES

(A) One-Person cases shall buy $6.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps per month, and receive free $3.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps.

(B) Two-Person cases shall buy $12.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps per month, and receive free $6.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps.

(C) Three Person cases receiving a wage of $50.00 or less per month must buy at least $16.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps per month, and receive free $8.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps; or, they may buy $18.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps, and receive free $9.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps.

(1) Three-Person cases receiving more than $50.00 per month shall buy $18.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps and receive free $9.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps.

(D) All Four-Person cases must buy $18.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps and receive free $9.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps per month, and they may buy $24.00 worth of Orange Colored Food Order Stamps, and receive free $12.00 worth of Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps per month.

(E) All Cases of Five or more persons must purchase Orange Colored Food Order Stamps at the rate of $4.00 per month for as many members of the family as possible. With this Orange Stamp purchase, they will receive an amount equal to 50% of the Orange Stamp purchase. These cases may, if they wish, purchase Orange Colored Food Order Stamps in a greater amount, up to $6.00 per month per person for all members of the family. The accompanying Blue Stamps in this instance will still amount to 50% of the Orange Stamp purchase.

(F) W. P. A. cases will not be required to purchase Orange Colored Food Order Stamps in an amount to exceed approximately 50% of their W. P. A. wage.

PLAN NO. 2

FOR OAA, ADC, AB, AH AND TA, RECEIVING CASH GRANTS

All of these cases will be given Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps at the rate of $2.00 per person in the family per month, providing they buy Orange Colored Food Order Stamps at a fixed rate which will not exceed 50% of their grant.

PLAN NO. 3

FOR CERTIFIED UNASSIGNED WPA CASES, And All Other Cases CERTIFIED For Public Assistance But Receiving No Cash

Free Blue Surplus Food Order Stamps will be given to each of these cases at the rate of $2.00 per month per person in the family, after they have spent the amount they are now spending for food for Orange Colored Food Order Stamps. This amount will vary in different cases, depending on the income of the family. The amount of this Orange Stamp purchase will be determined by an interview between some member of each family and an Interviewer of the Welfare Agency.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

GENERAL

GRANGE SHOOTING FOR ELIMINATION OF FARM TENANTS

Group Visions Nation of Family-Sized Farms for United States

DEC 15 1940

(The Associated Press)

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 14.—After nearly three-quarters of a century the Grange, largest of farmer organizations, still hews to the line in quest of its biggest goal—an America free from agricultural tenantry.

It shuns anything it believes might stifle agricultural freedom of effort. It opposes strongly many New Deal theories of production and marketing.

An agriculture of family-sized farms is the vision of approximately 1,000,000 farm and rural folk in the nationwide fraternity.

They reaffirmed belief in this ideal at their recent 74th annual convention in Syracuse, and all the other approved legislation was so much brick and mortar to strengthen the foundation of the ideal.

Mild-mannered Fred J. Freestone, chairman of the Grange's national executive committee, elaborates:

"Consider our opposition to federal production control. It doesn't mean we are against social and economic reform; after all, the Grange itself has been an instrument of agrarian reform since its foundation.

"But we feel that production or crop control is beneficial only to the large, corporate farms, not to the small farm owner."

Freestone, his tall frame bent intently forward over the desk where he transacts the business of one of the Grange's several cooperative insurance firms, adds:

"It's not a matter of surpluses, anyhow, the way we look at it. It's really a problem of underconsumption that should be attacked through proper marketing and more efficient transportation."

Ever since 1867, when Oliver Hudson Kelly, a young government agricultural bureau clerk, set out with $2.50 to interest farmers in a "useful fraternal order" designed to protect them against "frauds and impositions," the Grange has been a wary, hard-hitting special pleader for the American farmer.

It also has been much more than this.

DEC 15 1940

As a secret fraternity it has erased regional barriers and those set up by specialization in crops. Providing community centers—there are more than 8000 local Granges in 37 states—it has relieved the social tedium of rural areas and sponsored educational and occupational projects.

Its pioneering in co-operative purchasing and marketing led to establishment of the Grange League Federation, popularly known as the G. L. F., which operates huge grain elevators, fertilizer factories and hundreds of markets and stores.

Through its insurance companies, officials estimate it has saved farmers millions of dollars in potential losses from fire, tornado, hail, casualty and automobile theft.

Kelley, assigned in 1867 to make a survey of the South's devastated and neglected farms in the wake of the War Between the States, had the inspiration for the Grange literally at the muzzle of a loaded squirrel gun.

As a Northerner, and a prying one at that, Kelley was unwelcome in the ruined manor houses and tumble-down farm shacks to which he drove horse and buggy over roads still bearing three-year-old ruts of artillery wheels.

He wanted desperately to do something to help heal the intersectional breach and revive once-prosperous agriculture.

At one farm a sullen voice warned:

"Another step and you're a dead man! I've got a gun on you!"

The government clerk halted a moment, then in a wild guess implored:

"You wouldn't shoot a brother Mason, would you?"

A moment later Kelley was a guest in the house, obtaining the information he wanted. He came away with an idea—why not a farmers' fraternity to bring America's agricultural workers together?

Within three months Kelley had interested five other government employes and a working farmer in the idea. His niece, Miss Carrie Hall of Boston, contributed the happy suggestion that farm women be given a role in the organization.

Kelley named it the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, the name it bears formally today. Local, county and state units were termed granges in the sense that lodge is used by other fraternities.

Thus the Grange became synonymous for the Patrons of Husbandry, and members style themselves simply Grangers.

"While at no time losing sight of the practical aim, that of bettering the farmers' lot," Freestone explains, "Kelley felt that the ritualism and fraternal side of the organizatior would have a stabilizing result.

"It had the immediate result of bringing the farmers together, and it has had the effect since of often making unity when the Grange, in its more practical activities, ran into rough going."

Inclusion of women in the organization on an equal footing with men, a startling innovation at the time, served to emphasize the essential democracy of the order on which it prides itself today.

The Grange boasts it always has cultivated a national point of view. Leaders stress that in the development of agricultural policies there should be a reasonable amount of give-and-take, as between different sections and groups in the interest of the industry as a whole.

At the base of the intricate pyramid that is the Grange, within the 8000 local units, much of this national policy is formulated in open discussion that resembles the New England town meeting.

Well informed and alert, Grangers at home scrutinize all national and regional developments that affect their industry. In Washington they maintain a bureau that keeps careful check of all legislation pertaining to agriculture.

One of the Grange proposals this year was for establishment of a research bureau in Washington, maintained independently of any "lobby" control, to examine all agricultural legislation and to report to the legislators themselves.

While the political activity of the Grange attracts the most interest generally, the organization's other functions move forward quietly but importantly.

The G. L. F., for instance, was set up primarily to alleviate price conditions in the field of agriculture's "raw materials"—feed and fertilizer.

Today, through 156 retail stores and 400 agencies in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, G. L. F. distributes almost every farm necessity except machinery, and last year did a $16,000,000 business.

It does not propose to undersell independent, local competitors, but returns an annual "patron's dividend" to its customers, Grangers or not, which amounted last year to $1,300,000.

It operates at Albany, N. Y., one of the largest grain elevators in North America, owns a huge fertilizer factory in Baltimore, and has established the largest auction and retail egg service in New York city.

In the insurance field the Grange sponsors the National Grange Mutual Liability Company, with 60,000 policyholders and $2,500,000 in assets; the National Grange Fire Insurance Company, and scores of smaller companies operating on statewide or regional basis.

DEC 15 1940

Meanwhile on every week day night, some 600 local granges are meeting somewhere, engaging in the rituals designed "to train and develop members into a fraternal brotherhood who appreciate and love the beauties of rural life."

The Grangers are having "programs"—singing and elocution contests, games and amusements. There are lecture hours at which members have their say on the condition of the nation's potato crop—or Secretary Hull's latest pronouncement on South American trade.

Nation Of Family-Sized Farms Is Vision Of Million Farmers United In 74-Year-Old Grange

Secret Agricultural Fraternity Pursues Long-Sought Goal, An America Free From Tenantry—Order Operates Co-ops, Insurance Companies and Social Affairs

DEC 13 1940 DEC 15 1940

By ALFRED MAAS
Associated Press Staff Writer

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 14.—After nearly three-quarters of a century, the Grange, largest of farmer organizations, still hews to the line in quest of its biggest goal—an America free from agricultural tenantry.

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Opposes Crop Control

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DEC 15 1940

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Grangers Are Active

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Growth Of Farm Cooperatives Seen By Acting FCA Governor

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The cooperative movement among farmers of the United States will continue to develop and there will be no slackening or reversing the direction in which it is going, Acting Governor A. G. Black told a group of cooperative workers in annual meeting here last week.

The 12,000 and more cooperatives now doing business may increase or decrease in number, but the cooperative movement itself, through an experience of 20 years or more, has had sufficient experience to assure continuation in the right direction and a refinement of its processes.

"The cooperative movement has been refined in the fires of 20 years of activities," said Mr. Black. "Cooperatives have made a place for themselves and they did this in the early years at least against the unrelenting opposition of private business."

Mr. Black urged that cooperatives consider fully the fact that they are not the only institutions operating in the marketing field and that they develop their business accordingly. This is particularly true, he said, in the development of any national marketing program. "No national program can be developed without giving proper consideration to others in the field."

Mr. Black urged that managers, officers and directors of farmer cooperatives keep themselves tuned to the changing times and be ready to adjust their operations with changes as they come along.

House Kills Tenant Loan In Farm Bill

Rules Out $25,000,000 For Administration Of Bankhead-Jones Law

Co-Author Weeps

Sugar Growers Get Their Appropriation Restored-All Other Groups Fail

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Despite President Roosevelt's protests at cuts made in his farm funds recommendations, the House tonight passed without record vote an Agriculture Department appropriation bill which contained $66,928,435 less than he asked.

The measure, carrying money for the department's far-flung crop control and other programs for the fiscal year 1941, totalled $722,001,084, which was $579,539,231 under the total available for the current fiscal year.

The bill contained, however, the usual $500,000,000 benefit payments to ofarmers who cooperate with the Agriculture Department's crop control program.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Despite President Roosevelt's protest that cuts made ni the 1941 Agriculture Department appropriation bill were imperfectly terrific, the House refused tonight to restore a $25,000,000 item for loans to convert farm tenants into landowners.

The teller vote by which the chamber refused to rescind the slash made by the House appropriations committee was 149 to 135. It came after Chairman Jones of the House agriculture committee, (D), Texas, in a dramatic speech during which he broke down and wept, pleaded with the members not to go back on "the plain homespun folks" struggling to rise from the status of tenants.

Representative Woodrum (D), Virginia, a leader of the Economyites, replied that there was a "homespun philosophy that men are supposed to support the government rather than having the government support the men."

Earlier, however, the House yielded to farm-State demands for reinstatement of $47,500,000 for benefit payments to sugar growers.

The farm tenancy vote, unless reversed later in the legislative process means the doom of the program under which the government has made 13,000 loans to tenants since 1937.

Speaker Takes Floor

In the closing minutes of debate on the issue, Speaker Bankhead, in one of his rare talks from the House floor, bitterly criticized the appropriations committee for making the slash.

As Representative Cannon (D), Montana, committee member in charge of the bill, was pleading that the fund be kept out, Bankhead arose and said:

"Does the gentleman feel that the committee has the moral, legislative right to overrule the will of Congress by refusing to appropriate one farthing to carry out the will of Congress?"

(He referred to the fact that Congress has authorized the farm tenancy program in the past).

Cannon replied that althoguh the House had authorized such a program, the last time an appropriation for it came it, "it voted it down."

"I'm ready to yield to the expressed will of Congress," Cannon said.

The sugar item, eliminated when the House appropriations committee slashed $150,000,000 from President Roosevelt's budget recommendations, was restored with the committee's approval. Representative Cannon (D), Montana, announced that the committee had "reconsidered."

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Sugar Put Back

With only members from Florida voicing objections, the House approved the sugar appropriation by a standing vote of 85 to 45, and raised the total of the bill to $681,874,256, compared with President Roosevelt's request to $788,929,519.

Cannon pointed out to the House that the sugar processing tax had poured more than $68,000,000 into the treasury, and said that it would be unjust not to transfer that sum to growers as Congress originally contemplated.

A little earlier, farm members lost one of their most important fights when a technicality blocked an amendment by Representative Pace (D) Georgia, which would have added $72,678,212 for disposal of surplus commodities.

Representative Cole (D), Montana who was presiding, held that the proposal was not authorized by law and therefore could not even be debated.

Before the sugar item was reached, the farm bloc suffered reverses on attempts to increase the funds for pink boll worm control and for soil erosion projects.

As the House worked toward a vote on the question of providing funds to make far mowners out of tenants, Chairman Jones (D), Texas, of the House agriculture committee made a vibrant plea for restoration of $25,000,000 fund for this purpose which the appropriations committee had slashed out of the bill.

Starting in full voice and ending intears, Jones declared the program was the "most important part of the important bill" he ever handled. The farm tenancy measure is the Bankhead-Jones Act, named for Senator Bankhead (D), Alabama, and Jones.

"If I am remembered for anything of my service in this House," Jones said almost inaudibly, "I hope it is this."

Mitchell For Plan

Southern born Representative Mitchell (D), Illinois, the House's only negro, joined in the plea for keeping the program. He said the program was the great hope of the southern negro.

"Nothing will help us more," he said, "than to give us this program and help us to become self-supporting and then we won't rush to New York and Chicago and Detroit and become objects of charity."

The President's criticism at his Hyde Park, N. Y., press conference today of the deep slashes proposed by the committee evoked expressions both of approval and disappointment among leaders in the floor fight over one of the toughiest bills of every session.

The President told his conference that the committee had made perfectly terrible cuts and read excerpts from his budget semmage asserting undue hardship on individuals or economic groups.

Chairman Jones said he was "very glad" that the President had made the statement, and added that the committee's cuts were "unjustified" and would greatly hamper the operations of farm programs.

But Representative Cannon said it was a "discouraging statement" because the President "now concedes the probable continuation of low farm prices." He reiterated that he thought Congress shuold seek a permanent solution for the farm problem.

Cannon and others have urged that Jones' committee approve legislation wheih would set up a self-financing method of farm subsidy payments.

STUDY OF PEANUT APPROVED IN BILL

Senate Group Favors A culture Item.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(AP) Senator Russell, Democrat, Georgia, said today the committee-approved agriculture supply bill included a $10,000 item for peanut seed-breeding investigations.

The Georgian, chairman of the senate subcommittee on agriculture appropriations, said he proposed the fund after officials advised him no such studies had been made for many years. The purpose would be to standardize the quality and improve the oil content of peanuts.

With this and many other changes, the agriculture bill was approved by the senate appropriations committee Saturday. The house had trimmed it considerably below budget estimates.

Oh, Dixie Land Is The Land Of Pork Chops And Bacon

ATLANTA—(AP)—The cold-bound land of cotton is serving up a larger share of the nation's pork chops and breakfast bacon, to such an extent the trend has upset forecasts of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

"Because of the different regional distribution of the 1939 pig crop from other years, when the total United States crop was about the same, any forecast of slaughter based on past relationships with the pig crop cannot be exact," the bureau stated in its report on the livestock outlook for 1940.

Curtailment of both the Spring and Fall crops of pigs is forecast, however, chiefly because of the changing ratio in the price of corn and the price of pork.

"The ratio of the hog prices to corn prices has become much less favorable since Dec. 1," the bureau reported. "The drop in the ratio for the last two months has been one of the most marked on record for that season of the year."

In the Southern states, farm leaders are campaigning for development of feed supplies along with the increases in livestock production. They point to pasture lands and feed crops other than corn—peanuts, for example—as offering an advantage to the Southern grower in the swing away from one-crop domination.

For some figures to illustrate the shift in production:

Comparing the 1939 pig crops with the 1929-33 average, the bureau showed the North Central states dropped off 5.6 per cent.

The South Atlantic region jumped 43.4 per cent and the South Central states jumped 51 per cent. For the United States, the crop increase was 5.3 per cent.

For the South Atlantic states, this means that where 4,941,000 pigs was the average for 1929-33, the total last year reached 7,085,000. In the South Central states the jump was from 9,349,000 to 14,117,000 pigs.

The two regions thus produced about one-fourth the nation's total of 84,302,000.

Despite the slackening in pig crops, the bureau saw materially larger supplies of livestock for slaughter (animals actually sold off the farms).

Offsetting this, however, the bureau predicted "consumer demand for meats in 1940 probably will average stronger than in 1939, but it may decline somewhat from present levels the first half of this year."

Incomes of consumers are expected to average higher "for the entire year of 1940. This will mean a stronger consumer demand for meats and lard. A broader export outlet for pork and lard also is in prospect."

SURVEY SHOWS FARM FAMILY LIFE IMPROVED

Groups Learning Methods For Self-Sustenance In Rural Areas

By JAMES H. PURDY, Jr.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 9—Low income farm families in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi are making progress in their drive to become self-sufficient, T. Roy Reid, regional director of the Farm Security administration said this week.

After an intensive survey, Mr. Reid pointed out that farmers are taking full advantage of opportunities and learning rapidly the importance of living at home. They are growing enough to feed their families and their live stock, and in most instances their smoke houses, pantries and granaries are better stocked than ever before.

One of the most successful rental projects of the region is the Clarksdale Homestead association in Crittenden county, Ark. where 132 low income families are now located. The annual report of the project shows that the families have already repaid a total of $25,403.15 of the $27,948.60 which was borrowed.

Eighty-eight families have repaid their loans in full. Twenty four families have paid their current notes or more and only 10 families are delinquent. Those delinquent failed to pay because their crops were planted in areas that were flooded during the highwater last year.

British Government Ban On Tobacco Leaves Southern Negro Farmers In Serious Plight

TUSKEGEE INST., Ala.—The British tobacco ban is destined, unless some remedial steps are taken by the states concerned and the government agencies, to throw more Negro farmers on relief and starvation. There are many farms located on poor hilly and submarginal lands whose sole dependence for a living hinges on from 3 to 5 acres of tobacco. Any interference with the price will result in much suffering.

Last fall at the beginning of hostilities, Britain withdrew her salesman from the flue-cured tobacco markets, resulting in the markets closing for a short time. In order to prevent a calamity, the Community Credit Corporation plugged the markets by advancing $40,000,000 to buy the English portion which is stored in American owned English warehouses. With the ban in importations the government stands to lose this. With a surplus of one billion, one hundred million pounds on hand from 1929 crop the outlook for 1940 looks gloomy unless steps are taken to remove it. Southern Congressmen are taking steps to bring to the attention of the Secretary of State the seriousness of the situation.

With Great Britain fighting starvation war with Germany purchasing from European markets, commodities that normally would go to Germany, and American goods that might find a way there eventually, the American farmer stands to be the loser.

Chattanooga Tenn., Daily Times
February 6, 1940

Potatoes, Pecans, Peanuts, Pigs, Peppers Put Georgia Out in Front

Georgia leads all other states in the production of sweet potatoes, improved pecans, watermelons, pimento peppers, velvet beans, naval stores, peanuts and peanut hay, a pamphlet issued recently by the Georgia department of agriculture states.

The bulletin says Georgia leads the south in production of peaches, in meat packing plants and number of acres in timber. Georgia is fourth among the states in cotton production and leads the southeast and all the south, with the exception of Texas, in the production of hogs.

Value of farm products in the state annually totals more than $300,000,000. Carroll county, with 4,699 farms, has the largest number of farms of any county in the state, while Echols, with 250, has the fewest.

There are 250,544 farms in Georgia with 75,857 full owners, 10,000 part owners, 164,000 tenants, 177,000 white farmers and 73,000 Negro farmers.

Approximately 25,300,000 acres are in farm land with 10,031,000 in cultivation.

Georgia farmers own 970,000 cows of which 370,000 are milk cows and heifers, 8,142,000 chickens, 1,544,000 hogs, 32,000 sheep, 31,000 horses and 337,000 mules.

More than 80,000 boys and girls are enrolled in 4-H club work in the state.

Approximately 1,000 carloads of fruits and vegetables are canned commercially in the state each year.

More than 60,000 Georgia farm families have electricity in their homes and electric power is available in every county of the state

How Many Farmers?

How many farmers are needed in the United States?

NOV 30 1940

Last week, an article in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics' publication, "Land Policy Review," posed this question and then attempted to answer it. In substance, the answer was: that depends.

If, said the article's author, Oris V. Wells, farming generally should be conducted on the same scale as in the Corn Belt, and farmers should have the same income as in the Corn Belt—the nation's most prosperous farming section—only 5,182,000 farms and 24,202,200 farm people would be required. But if it is considered desirable to maintain the largest possible farm population by conducting farm operations on the scale and comparable income of our most densely populated commercial farming section, the Cotton Belt, U. S. farm land could support about 9,643,000 farms and 45,032,000 farm people. According to the latest available estimates, there are now 6,812,000 farms and 31,774,000 farm people in the United States.

Two Obligations

SEP 30 1940

In times like these, the agricultural marketing cooperatives have an opportunity to do an even bigger job than usual—and a more far-reaching job.

Daily World

They can help stabilize markets and minimize the dislocations in normal exchange of goods that may result from the defense drive.

Atlanta, Ga.

They can render the consumer a necessary serice by perfecting production and marketing methods to the end that unnecessary price increases or food shortage are avoided.

Judging by the co-ops' past record, they will fully meet these obligations.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF
GENERAL

Predict Tractor Will Evict 300,000 Dixie Farm Families In Next 10 Years

Now 210 Negro Applicants For Every 100 Vacancies On Tenant Farm Property

OCT 27 1940

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Recent release of a book, "Technology on the Farm" prepared by an Interbureau Committee and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has revealed that the tractor in the next decade, may displace as many as 300,000 Southern families.

The book stated: "The rate of family displacement would undoubtedly be lower in areas other than those in which the plantation organization prevails; and in some of the rougher areas mechanization will necessarily proceed slowly, yet it is not unreasonable to assume that within the next decade the number of tractors used in the South will nearly double and as a result families now living on farms may be displaced."

The volume pointed out that this estimate represented a displacement of only a little over one family for each new tractor, whereas the data for plantation areas indicated a displacement of two or more families per tractor.

Based on vital statistics (birth and death rates), the report declared that for every 100 present farm vacancies (white), there were 275 applicants. Among the colored population there were 210 applicants for every 100 vacancies.

"Consequently, there must be a material migration from Southern farms or there will result a substantial increase in an area where farm population pressure is already acute."

As for the mechanical cotton picker, the book stated that more than 800 patents had been issued on such devices, but none was considered beyond the experimental stage.

Sweet Potato Seen As New Money Crop

NOV 9 1940

Value For Starch And Feed Being Proven In Louisiana

By ATTICUS MULLIN

BATON ROUGE, LA., Nov. 8.—Sweet potatoes' value as a money crop through the production of starch and animal food is being proven out at St. Francisville near here where the Warriner Starch Company has erected a plant and is processing sweet potatoes into animal feed and also into starch.

Representative of the four most active and influential agencies in Alabama interested in bettering the income of Alabama farmers made a pilgrimage to Baton Rouge this week to view the results being obtained at St. Francisville near here in the processing of sweet potatoes. The Alabama agencies interested in farmers which had representatives present were the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, the Auburn Extension Service and the Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

Making the trip here were LeRoy Holt, director of sales production of the Tennessee Company; Luther Fuller, general farm production agent of the same company, and W. Hill Hosch, production agent of the company in Georgia.

Representing the Extension Service were J. D. (Duck) Samford, extension supervisor; Lyle Brown, horticulturist; Don Kyle and A. W. Cotney, farmer supervisor of the Atmore prison farm.

Haygood Paterson represented the Department of Agriculture while Capt. Thomas Reid represented the Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

Business men from Alabama and other points who were in the party were Ernest Johnson, J. C. Petty and E. G. Bailey, of Selma; H. J. Whitfield, Selden Sheffield and Jerome Levy, of Demopolis; A. B. Roberts, of Eufaula; John Cox, agricultural agent of the Frisco Railroad, of Atmore; W E. Lee, banker of Macon, Ga., and others.

* * *

Before visiting the St. Francisville starch and feed plant, the members of the party were guests of Louisiana State University at the annual stock show in the agricultural center on the campus, a vast enclosed arena seating more than 12,000 people and containing ample space for the exhibition of more than 600 animals. This building is roofed and can be used in all kinds of weather. And during the evening Friday the guests saw a Wild West rodeo in the arena which was a thrilling event and which all enjoyed to the utmost. We always thought these rodeos were something of a fake or tame events but when a good one shows, be sure to be on hand because there are plenty of thrills together with action to suit the most blase.

* * *

Dr. Miller, of the Louisiana Extension Service, is in charge of the experiment work with sweet potatoes. Dr. Miller has hundreds of potato vines in full bloom. These blooming vines are used for crossing the various varieties of potatoes in the hunt for better varieties. Dr. Miller and his force have already developed many varieties of potatoes, the copper-skinned Puerto Rican being the best so far turned out from the edible and shipping standpoint.

Dr. Miller uses 2-year-old plants to secure the blooms. He must protect the plants during their first Winter in a greenhouse. When the varieties are crossed through the blooms, the seeds of the crossed varieties are planted the next year. Complete records are kept of the crossing and the production records, etc.

* * *

Leaving the University campus, the party was shown the new Louisiana capitol building before going on to St. Francisville to see the processing of sweet potatoes for starch and animal feed. A lot of Alabama red sandstone was used in this building. All were interested, of course, in the statue of Huey Long near the capitol and facing it.

* * *

At the Warriner plant at St. Francisville, the manager, Mr. Warriner, took the party in hand and showed the process from the sweet potato on the unloading platform to the completed animal food.

Farmers on the day the party arrived were, being paid $5 a ton for their potatoes. It was learned in St. Francisville that many of them were kicking about the price. But they were coming in. The potatoes are first dumped into a trough where there is running water. From the trough they are moved to the grinder and presser by a belt conveyor. After being chopped and pressed the resultant meal is run into a big drier similar to a cement drier. And from the drier, or driers, the dried meal is sacked. It is really good to the taste.

* * *

Mr. Warriner explained that it takes three bushels of potatoes to process one bushel of feed. The feed is now worth $30 a ton and tests made by the experiment station of the University of Tennessee show that a bushel of the potato feed has the feeding value of a bushel of corn. The feed content is increased if the feeder will use 15 pounds of cottonseed meal to a bushel of the potato feed.

* * *

St. Francisville is not in a section notable for large yields of sweet potatoes. The Triumph potato is used because its yields are greater than any other variety but is not a good table potato. It was learned that the yield this year is short due to the drouth and will not average in this section as much as 125 bushels to the acre. This is against the normal average in the sandy sections of South Alabama of more than 200 bushels to the acre.

* * *

The purpose of the visit to the potato processing plant was to get a clear-cut idea as to the progress that has been made in getting a new money crop for the farmer and in making the Southern farmer independent of the West for feed to fatten animals for the market. It was agreed that a great deal of progress has been made but that more compact and more serviceable machinery must be brought out by engineers before potato processing into animal feed can be made into a paying investment by a commercial processor. But in the short time the experiment has been in process, the results achieved at St. Francisville are regarded as very satisfactory.

Commissioner Paterson was well pleased with what he saw and its portent for the future as was Duke Samford and Leroy Holt and Luther Fuller. In fact all members of the party thought Alabama farmers were almost in sight of a new cash crop and a new feed crop that would make them independent of corn.

WALTER CHIVERS SAYS

DEC 1 1940

NEGROES ARE AFRAID TO RETURN TO FARM LIFE

By WALTER R. CHIVERS

WELL, ACCORDING to the papers Negroes are still being advised to return to the farm. When the writer reads such advice, especially when given by leaders, he always look to see if it is stated why Negroes should return to the farm. The result is usually the same. That is the folks given the advice are not given any well-reasoned basic encouragement nor or they told in practical details as to how they night expect to succeed when they return to the farm. Another interesting side of this situation is that so many of the most vocal advisors are non-rural residents—that is they are full-time city residents.



Walter Chivers

The joint authors of one of the most respected treatises on "Society" write that,

"Systematic enslavement does not appear until the development of agriculture".

After reading the above statement it was only natural that being a Negro, descendant of enslaved grandparents, that my mind would turn to reflecting on the connection between southern agriculture and the enslavement of Negroes. A very intelligent maternal grandmother has left many impressions that certainly are not pleasant.

BACKBONE OF STATEHOOD

Agriculture was the backbone of American statehood. It furnished the leisure for many of the men whom we reverence now as having been responsible for the growth of American Slavery had ended a be cheap, exploited, suppressed labor in order that the largest numbers of the ruling classes might enjoy its products while becoming efficient in the art of state-building.

After legal slavery had endel a new system of slavery adjusted to the new laws had a rapid growth—it is called tenant farming. Tenant farming was primarily designed to do two things to rural Negroes, first was "to keep them in their places" and second to make them produce what was needed for the ruling classes as cheaply as possible.

DEC 1 1940

In order that these unfortunate folk would be sure to stay "in their assigned places of humiliating servitude" the possession of fertile land was prohibited them. That is Negro tenants rarely had opportunity to purchase productive land. Night riders, peonage and even the laws, in some instances, have kept these folk working for "shameful incomes."

UNREALISTIC DREAMING

Last summer while listening to Dr. Abram Harris, Howard University's learned professor of Economics, lecture on the "World after the War if Hitler Should be victorious' there was an inclination on my part to charge him with unrealistic dreaming. In substance he said that Hitler's victory plans envisioned a highly urbanized and industrialized continental Europe served by Agricul- uralized Africa. The Africans world be enslaved in order that agricultural produce might be raised cheaply enough to give all of Hitler's "Aryan" workers in Europe a high standard of living.

Later in the summer however, my travels carried me into rural Arkansas, Tenn., and Georgia. Harris' economic philosophy being fresh in memory, it is only natural that it would cause my thinking to begin to compare what was seen with Harris' line of thought. The conclusions were most disturbing. It was impossible not to see that the 'tenant enslavement' of American Negroes has more dangerous implications today than at any time since their Emancipation from legal slavery.

AFRAID TO RETURN

It is more than probable that those Negro leaders who continue to urge Negroes to return to the farm, without furnishing them leadership and encouragement are unsuccessful in their efforts because thousands of those who have left the farm are afraid to return lest they be "enslaved".

It is to be remembered that many of them left the farm because of the hard, cruel, barren lives they were forced to live and the painful pressure of the system. They probably have had fear instilled in them by stories told them by parents and grandparents of pre-war and post-war enslavement.

Goodness knows there is certainly need for a workable plan of giving Negroes employment at livable wages. It makes one a bit despondent to see the fine specimen of youth going to destruction on the street corners of Harlem, So. Chicago, Atlanta's "Auburn Ave" and Savannahs ' W. Broad St.' So if these leaders are sincere why not organize "back to the farm esettlement project," and lead the way back?

If they can convince people by doing the thing themselves their leadership will mean something positive. Even the writer might be persuaded to rural life if these folk by the sweat of their own brows can convince Negroes that their role on the farm is to be any more than that of the exploited upon whose sweaty backs vests the support for those who desire leisure enough to practice the arts of statehood.

FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT

Otherwise leave farming to machine and corporations and let the government concern itself with those, who by no fault of their own, are not employed or are unemployed. The purpose of government is to protect the weak. The New Deal has made a grand start. It might be well for the back-to-the farm absentee Negro leaders to leave the problem up to that Great Humanitarian in the White House. He needs Trans-Continental highways and will pay better than farm wages to Negroes as well as other underprivileged racial groups, provide for protection of their welfare under social Security.

DEC 1 1940

Then Negroes can live, even see a picture show occasionally, and actually have access to a bath tub with hot and cold running water. Could you imagine such in the rural black belts of the Old South? Hardly.

Great to Know It's Worthwhile, Says MidSouth Farm Champion

By HERMA NC. GERDES

DEC 18 1940

1940 Plant To Prosper Champion

I was a mite disappointed last year when the Arkansas state winners in the Plant To Prosper Contest were announced and I learned that I had finished in fourth place—just out of the prize money. I was disappointed, not at the judges' decision, but with myself for I thougnt then that if I had only worked a little harder I would have won a cash prize.

But then I remembered an old motto I heard a long time ago—"Keep on keeping on."

Keeps On To Title

I resolved to do just that in 1940—to keep on keeping on. I resolved to do everything in my power to win a state award this year. From the first day of January until I turned in my record book in late October. I worked with this goal constantly in my mind.

I speeded up my building program, completing work this year that I had planned to spread over two or three years. I improved my cropping system. I went over my last year's record time after time trying to correct mistakes and to improve on old practices. I read and studied farm papers, magazines and Extension Service bulletins. I tried to follow instructions of my county agent and home demonstration agent to the letter.

Most important of all, I grew more food and feed. I really lived at home this year, spending only $36.21 for food that could not be produced on my farm.

Came As Surprise

Frankly, I wasn't exactly shooting for the grand sweepstakes championship this year, although, the dream of some day winning it has been constantly with me since I entered the competition three years ago.

Now, that my dream has come true even before I expected it, I feel somewhat like a fisherman might who cast for a perch and landed a whale. I feel like a victorious general after an important and decisive battle. I feel like I guess all men do who are certain they have accomplished something really worthwhile.

I am not a man to make quick decisions, so I do not know this soon how we will use the $600 prize money. Mrs. Gerdes is going to have a whole lot to say about that, but it will be used to good advantage. It won't be squandered or thrown recklessly away. We are not going to buy any gold bricks.

Meanwhile, I will not feel that by winning the main prize that I am a finished or master farmer. Rather, I feel that I am just now beginning to understand what agriculture can mean to a man—just now beginning to shed my swaddling clothes as a farmer.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

GEORGIA

Atlanta Ga Journal
December 1, 1940

GARDEN PLOT AIDS NEEDY IN PEACH COUNTY

Fresh and Canned Vegetables Supplied To Poor Families

FORT VALLEY, Ga.—Peach County and the City of Fort Valley are working an effective plan for supplying its poor families with fresh vegetables in season and canned produce during the winter months.

On a six-acre plot, belonging to the county, a vegetable garden has been located, and in one corner of the area, a canning plant has been built for saving surplus produce.

Fresh vegetables, including turnips, peas, corn, okra, tomatoes, cabbage, string beans, butter beans, sweet potatoes, carrots and squash, are grown in season, and distributed to needy families which have been certified by the county welfare director as deserving.

The remainder is canned and saved for distribution over the winter months to the same families. During the past year, more than 2,000 cans of vegetables were packed.

This unusual project grew out of a survey by the county nurse, Mrs. Margaret Hardman, who found a number of cases of chronic illness in the city and county. Many of these families were unable to buy needed vegetables, and she and County Farm Agent R. P. Swan launched a drive to provide them with essential foods.

An appeal was made to Peach County's technical planning group, which in turn called on the county and city authorities to help develop the plan. The county agreed to lend the use of the land, which had been idle, while the city and county governments together supplied suffficient cash, about $300, to build a small canning plant, buy fertilizer and pay for seed.

County Agent Swan, with the help of the Negro county agent, O. C. O'Neal, directed the planting and cultivation of the garden. The National Youth Administration furnished the labor for building the canning plant, canning the produce and cultivating the garden. The county already owned some of the canning equipment, cutting down on the cost of building the plant.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

GEORGIA

FARM LIFE HOLDS JOY FOR NEGROES

'Camilla-Zack' Community Of Hancock County Proves Co-Operative Value

BY SARAH V. CHILES

SPARTA—The dream of an old gray-haired Negro has been realized after 11 years of work and effort by a determined group of 50 families at the Log Cabin Community, 10 miles from Sparta.

Initially an experiment in Negro happiness, the "Camilla-Zack" project has demonstrated a way of making rural life more satisfying for the race and has succeeded in encouraging Negroes to remain on farms. Fifty Negro families comprise the Log Cabin settlement, started by Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, Negro president of Georgia State College at Savannah, as a monument to his parents, Camilla and Zack Hubert.

The project had its beginning directly after the Civil War when Floyd, Zack and David Hubert were given their freedom. Although these three brothers were without money at the time, they bought 165 acres of land at $10 an acre, promising to pay for it in three installments. They met each installment and gradually each brother began adding to his share of soil and today a person can walk 20 miles on land owned solely by Negroes.

Zack Hubert visualized the need of education for his race when he had a log cabin built for a schoolhouse. Zack's 12 children attended this rustic school and later graduated from colleges with A.B., L.L.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Two of his sons became college presidents, one a minister.

After Zack's death, 13 years ago, Benjamin F. Hubert, sixth son of Camilla and Zack, bought 1,500 acres of land in the Negro community. He felt that it was his duty to make life on the farm more than dull drudgery to his race. He borrowed money from wealthy white friends and repaired farm houses, prepared land for planting crops.

Today, besides a school of 11 grades managed by six teachers, four of whom are college graduates, the settlement contains a community center where the Negroes gather for social and recreational purposes, a health center, completed in 1929, the only place where Negroes can receive medical attention in the county, with the exception of the clinic in Sparta. Doctors from the Georgia Medical Association take turns giving free medical attention to all Negroes in Hancock and adjoining counties.

Recently completed is the home management cottage, made of logs and native rock. There are also a Baptist church, a parsonage, a cooperative store, Dr. Hubert's home which bears the appropriate title, Piney Rest, and the Little White House, quarters for summer school students of Georgia State College, which is held every summer amid stately pines in a rustic setting.

This project is entirely free from government aid. Donations were received from private donors. The Julius Rosenwald fund made possible the school building and the parsonage was given by Miss Caroline Hazard. A picture of President and Mrs. Roosevelt, autograph by both, adorns the mantel of the spacious reception room in the Community Center.

On the executive board are such prominent names as George Foster Peabody, honorary chairman; Miss Carolyn Hazard, for 11 years president of Wellesley College; Dr. William Heard Kilpatrick, born and reared in White Plains, Ga., six miles from Log Cabin Community, he is now connected with Columbia University), Mrs. Mark Etheridge, just plain "Willie Snow" to Georgians, is also on the board.

Tuition for summer school is placed at a minimum cost and includes room, board, matriculation fees, access to the swimming pool, and medical attention at $25 for a six weeks' stay.

From a recent survey of practical and economic conditions made by the vocational department of the Julian Rosenwald school, Dr. J. T. McMillan, principal, said: "It was found that out of 42 families in the community, 76 per cent own their farm and more than 80 per cent of the food is produced for their own consumption. This community receives credit for being a pioneer in the breeding of beef cattle in Middle Georgia.

Isiah Warren, who lives in a neat frame dwelling, surrounded by fine oak trees and attractive flower beds, gave me the tenant's viewpoint.

"In 1933," he said, "I went north and stayed two years. Although I made about $100 a month it took every penny for our living. And I was homesick for Hancok county where I was born and raised. So we packed up and came back to Georgia. I got a farm with Dr. Hubert and I've been here ever since."

Buford, Ga., Advertiser
July 10, 1940

NEGROES ARE FINDING ADDED ENCOURAGEMENT IN GEORGIA FARMING

Georgia's Negro farmers are finding encouragement in their farming activities throughout the state, according to a report received by Director Walter S. Brown, of the Exension Service, from P. H. Stone, state Extension Negro agent.

In Newton county, 25 farmers have planted their crops with pure seed corn this year. Every cooperating farmer in the county has increased his corn acreage in an effort to supply family and livestock needs.

Grain crops of Negro farmers in Jenkins county are in better shape than ever before, due to the inauguration of recommended Extension practices. One farmer in the area has purchased a combine with which to harvest his grain, as well as give his neighbors the same service.

James Peyton and Henry Land, two Bibb farmers, are putting forth great efforts to improve pastures. Peyton has planted four acres to lespedeza, Dallis and carpet grass, while Land is growing kudzu for pasture ivprovement. Negroes in Hancock county are carrying on seven demonstrations in making window screens, covering walls, and canning vegetables. More than 87 percent of the farmers in one community planted vegetables on large scale this year.

Hog production in Meriwether county is on the increase. Neel Grier, Negro farmer in the Stovall community, reports over 50 hogs and pigs in good condition on his farm. This year four farmers in Evans county are producing tomatoes for demonstration projects.

Three Brooks county farmers are securing fair returns from beans, while Negroes in Dougherty county are putting forth efforts to make gardens serve a greater purpose as a home supply unit.

Fifteen Liberty county farmers are preparing pastures for their hogs. Many of the swine are being treated against cholera, with a total of 184 having been inoculated.

The homemade oil brooder is quite popular with small-scale poultry raisers in Baldwin counyt. Negro farmers in this section are using the brooders to good advantage with turkeys. At present 200 turkeys have been started by means of the brooders.

In the Peach county area, the farmers' club in Kings Chapel community have purchased a grain binder. A loan of $450 was made to one of the farmers to purchase the harvesting machine.

Negroes Show 'Live-at-Home' Program Pays

SEP 20 1940

Many on Georgia Farms Find Diversification Is Profitable.

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

ATHENS, Ga., Sept. 19.—A sound live-at-home program and a good system of diversified farming are helping Georgia Negro farmers to smooth out their farm problems, thus enabling them to live better through lean years as well as periods of prosperity.

This revelation of Negro adjustments in farming was reported today to Director Walter S. Brown, of the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, by P. H. Stone, extension Negro agent, who pointed out that Negro farmers "are more concerned about producing a living at home and retaining a higher level of farming than ever before."

Stone said many farmers throughout the state have finished harvesting their crops and have turned their attention to soil building by planting winter legumes for nitrogen. Here, briefly, are a few highlights of Negro farming activities, as reported by Extension Agent Stone:

Result demonstrations in swine production being conducted in Peach and Houston counties show excellent progress. Nearly 700

Solution Seen To Problem of Farm Tenant

Regents Are Told How Group's Income Is Increased.

Prospects that Georgia's tenant farmer problem may be solved eventually through scientific experiments were contained yesterday in the annual report of Dr. H. P. Stuckey, director of the Georgia Experiment Station, to the State Board of Regents.

Dr. Stuckey pointed out that 14,000 acres of land near Eatonton are being used as a proving ground. Since the Experiment Station took over this land in 1938, tenants have been under the supervision of scientists. The report says:

"Tenant operations in 1939 show that their net worth averaged $228 higher at the end of the year than at the beginning. An appreciable part of his increase was in cash, but some was represented in increased numbers of livestock and other inventories."

Dr. Stuckey added that the station is making considerable progress with its soil-analysis service, which is extended to farmers in all parts of the state. He said 15,000 persons visited the experiment station during the past year. Negro farmers have enough hogs to produce sufficient meat and lard for the coming year. Food preservation is another important phase. One Negro farm woman in Dodge county has already canned 600 quarts of fruits and vegetables for the family needs.

In Mitchell county, Simon Marcus decided to see if boll weevil control pays. Today he knows. His first picking showed an increase of 50 per cent in yield over the nonpoisoned area. Also, in Mitchell county eight 4-H club boys have each planted two acres of corn for feeding out their beef calves, which they plan to exhibit at the fat stock shows.

Marketing is the activity of Liberty county Negroes. Approximately 60,000 pounds of tobacco have been sold by these farmers [illegible] 4-H boys have raised and sold [illegible] lambs. In Greene county [illegible] farmers got together in two community meetings and agreed to increase their winter legume acreage.

Seek To Aid Tenants And Sharecroppers

Propose Greater Opportunities For Negro Ministers

SEP 21 1940

ATLANTA, Ga.—In two days of conference here on September 19 and 20, church leaders of both races from several denominations will discuss programs for interdenominational cooperation in communities where the churches are needed for larger service to the people.

The particular projects under discussion will include remedial steps and more helpful information about government aids to share croppers and tenants; the placing of religious extension workers in rural areas to help the churches of all denominations in their work among sharecroppers; and the expansion of educational institutes for ministers in service in both southern and northern communities.

The occasion will mark the second annual conference of church leaders who met last year in Durham, N. C. and launched a national movement for cooperative work through the churches.

Sponsored by the Home Missions Council and the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches, the program is significant in that its plans and promotion are going forward across denominational lines with interracial representation on committees, in financial support, and in sponsorship of the projects already underway.

Emphasis is being placed on the need for larger educational opportunties for Negro ministers to keep them abreast with modern needs of their people; and on work in rural areas where exploitation under the sharecropper system is prevalent.

GALAXY OF LEADERS

The Atlanta program will include a symposium on ways and means for a united program of service through all the churches irrespective of denomination, seminar discussions on ministers institutes and religious extension work.

Participating in the movement and in the Atlanta meeting will be such leaders as Bishops W. A. Fountain, G. E. Curry, R. R. Wright, Jr., S. L. Greene and Mrs. Christine S. Smith of the AME Church; Bishops L. W. Kyles, W. J. Walls, and Dr. J. W. Eichelberger, Jr. from the AME Zion Church; Dr. W. H. Jernagin, M. A. Talley, Mrs. R. R. Moton, Prof. Charles D. Hubert from the National Baptist Convention, Inc., and Northern Baptist Church; Bishops W. Y. Bell, J. A. Hamlett and Dr. Channing H. Tobias from the CME Church; from the Congregational-Christian Churches Rev. John C. Wright and Dr. H. S. Barnwell; Bishop A. P. Shaw and Dr. Willis King, from the Methodist Church.

Dr. James A. Crain from the Disciples of Christ; Dr. Mark A. Dawber from the Home Missions Council, Dean John A. Tilley of Shaw University, President Rufus Clement of Atlanta University, and the Rev. V. A. Edwards and newly appointed religious extension worker for Georgia under this movement.

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The national movement has the chairmanship of Wallace A. Battle, retired secretary of the American Church Institute, Protestant Episcopal Church, and Dr. George E. Haynes of the Federal Council of Churches is executive secretary; a business committee of which Bishop Kyles is chairman has the representation of several denominations.

A committee of Negro ministers appointed by the Interdenominational Ministers Union of Atlanta is in charge of local arrangements under the chairmanship of Bishop Fountain.

Successful Farming Is Shown by Negro

SPARTA, Oct. 15.—An outstanding success has been made by William F. Heath, Negro farmer living with his family in the Springfield community, 12 miles from here.

Farming on the old Lary place he has 150 acres in cultivation, divided as follows: 25 acres of cotton, 45 acres of corn, nine acres of wheat, 20 acres of oats, velvet beans, peas, soy beans and Lespedeza.

OCT 16 1940

Heath has picked and ginned 16 bales of cotton from his 25 acres and made 118 bushels of wheat from nine acres planted and will make 700 bushels of corn. He has enough canned fruits and vegetables for consumption almost every day in the year. Has an all-year garden with one-fourth of an acre in collards. He will have plenty of meat from nine hogs, which will soon be ready to kill, and enough cane has been made for syrup to supply the family.

THE AUTOMOBILE AND OUR COTTON

Before us is a press release of the Cotton-Textile Institute which contains information of interest to every American cotton grower and all others who are interested in the cotton industry.

OCT 14 1940

It was disclosed at the recent New York Automobile Show that the automobile industry will use 640,000 bales, or more than 400,000,000 pounds of cotton this year, with an anticipated use of 945,000 bales in 1941. This is the cotton crop of 1,890,000 acres.

Individual makes and models of 1941 cars will use between 51.4 and 80.9 pounds of cotton, each depending on details of design and manufacture.

Thus, the automobile industry will be responsible for 11 per cent of the 1940 domestic cotton consumption and for 6.8 per cent of American production.

Principal automotive applications of cotton are upholstery, cord for tires, lacquers, artificial leather, top material, plastics, and mechanical rubber goods such as radiator, heater and brake hoses, webbing, insulation and numerous less conspicuous purposes.

The owner of a 1941 automobile will have the advantage of recent scientific developments in cotton, as well as improved fashion design.

Stepping into his new car, the owner will be impressed by the tailored trimness of the interior. Here he is literally surrounded by cotton. Many yards of specially processed cotton fabric are used to upholster seats, sides and top and the technological developments that have advanced cotton cloth from its "gingham days" to its present position of style leadership, "guarantee that the new materials will retain their texture and beauty throughout the life of the car."

Under the seat upholstery, soft, laminated cotton blankets cover the springs and give the comfort of favorite chairs at home. Cotton also provides padding for the walls and top, covers the floorboards and helps soundproof the whole car.

Says the Cotton-Textile Institute's press service:

In front of the driver the steering wheel, the instrument panel, handles, knobs and buttons, garnish moulding and other such parts are now mostly moulded of plastics which derive necessary cellulose from cotton "linters," the fuzz from cotton seed. It is reliably estimated that 2,000,000 pounds of linters will be used this year in the manufacture of autotmobile lacquers in addition to the quantity used for plastics.

All this cotton rides on cotton, for rubber tires could just as accurately be called "cotton" tires, because one-half the material used to build them is cotton.

During 1939, United States tire manufacturers produced 57,612,000 tires for trucks, buses and passenger cars now on the road and into those tires went 316,870,000 pounds of cotton cord and fabric, an average of about 5 1-2 pounds of raw cotton per tire.

The progressive leadership of the cotton-textile industry is reflected by one mill's research which has recently led to the development of a process of manufacturing heat-resistant cotton cord for tires. This is said to have stepped up the performance of tires to a new high level. This same heat-resistant cord has also found application in power transmission belts and in hydraulic brake hose.

The importance of cotton consumed by the automotive industry, particularly in view of the drastic curtailment of American cotton exports, is indicated by Dr. Charles T. Murchison, president of the Cotton-Textile Institute, when he says:

"In the days of American cotton domination, no less than 60 per cent of our crop was exported. Today, it appears unlikely that the 1940-41 crop season will witness the export of more than 1,500,000 bales, or approximately 13 per cent.

"Even under present crop restrictions, we produce almost 13,000,000 bales of cotton. Since domestic consumption today, although at record high levels, still is only 7,600,000 bales, it is apparent that the use of cotton by the American people, and by American industry must be spectacularly expanded.

"The healthy increase in cotton consumption by the automotive industry is a welcome sign that industry as a whole is coming to appreciate not only the basic virtues of America's premier fiber but also the economic importance of supporting an industry on which no less than 12,000,000 American men, women and children directly depend for their livelihood."

AGRICULTURE* 1940 G ORGIA
IMPROVEM NT OF

Ocilla, Ga., Star
October 3, 1940

NEGRO OWNER PLANS FARM

Willis Rutherford, an enterprising colored citizen, owns a farm near Holt on the Ocilla-Douglas Highway. Last winter Rutherford got the County Agent and the colored vocational teacher and his advanced students to lay out a system of terraces on this farm. With two plug mules, the terraces were alternately plowed and then drug, until terraces that did not bread, on gullied land, were built.

Upon checking his crop-land and allotted crops Willis found that he had 49.9 acres of crop-land, with 16.7 acres allotted to special crops, he was shown that by subtracting the 16.7 acres from 49.9 acres and the 33.2 acres left times 7 cents gave him $23.24 available as soil building assistance. Rutherford estimated that he had built enough terraces to earn all of the $23.24, but he said that he had those and that he wanted to further build up his soil.

"Where could you put some winter peas, so the livestock would not graze them to death?" asked Reid: "In that fenced cut next to the road where I had oats last spring" said Rutherford. "Yesc but where are you going to graze your livestock when you take them out of the field?" asked the County Agent. After thinking through the situation and studying the fields Willis decided to put the 3 acre oat patch in oats and peas for grazing next spring, and to plant 5 acres that could be fenced easily, in winter peas. On the part that was not planted to cotton, he decided to apply 200 lbs. of 20 per cent superphosphate to the acre. So he made application for 250 lbs. of peas and 1200 pounds of phosphate, which he says he is going to put out now after the first good rain.

"Those oats you took the stock off of in March and applied the Nitrate of Soda to, just about save "the day" for your mules last spring, didn't they? asked Reid. "They sure did," replied Rutherford, "if it had not been for those oats we just could not have made a crop." "Well, we had better plant some more oats hadn't we? said Reid. "Yes sir, you know we just made a plumb failure with our corn for some reason, said Willis. "How many terraces did we put in that field next to Mr. Kelley's?" asked the County Agent. Let's see,—seven. I think, replied Rutherford. "Well I would suggest, as there were some pretty bad washes in that field, that you put every other terrace in oats" said Reid. Upon checking this field they found that 5 acres of oats, begining with the second terrace, would place a close growing crop in strips every other terrace interval down this slope, which had been washing pretty badly, before it was terraced last spring.

This practice, even though Willis may have to arrange some temporary fences and pick a few velvet beans, he and the County Agent, think will be a wise step in the right direction, towards making a more productive farm.

Perry, Ga., Journal
October 17, 1940

NEGRO FARM FAMILY MAKES FINE RECORD

In 1935, worldly possessions of the Earnest Norwood family of Houston county totaled only $35. Today it exceeds $1,400, an increase of more than 40 times in five years. In fact, their 1939 farm income amounted to about $600.

This negro farmer, his wife and nine children were living in poverty back in 1933. Their mule had died, and without workstock, further farming was out of the question. There was no possibility of securing another mule. Starvation was staring them in the face.

They were temporarily rescued by the Houston county relief rolls. But not for long. The Farm Security Administration proved their second salvation. From relief rolls, they were placed on the rural rehabilitation program in March, 1935. At that time, their poverty was almost unbelievable. The family of 11 was crowded in a tumble-down two-room shack, eating only two meager meals a day and sleeping on two double beds and one baby bed.

The year 1935, however, proved to be the turning point in their lives, after being accepted on FSA rolls. From worldly possessions of three chickens, one cow and pig back in 1935, the Norwoods have prospered and today they have two good milk cows, 27 hogs of which three are brood sows, two jim-dandy mules, 30 chickens, a good garden, 296 quarts of canned food, $380 worth of food on hand and $290 in the bank. Their smokehouse contains 1,800 pounds of meat and 300 pounds of lard.

Working under the guidance of Harley W. Jones and Mrs. Inez Fagan, farm and home supervisors in Peach and Houston counties, Norwood has repaid $1,314 on a total loan over a five-year period of $1,624. During the latter part of 1939 the Norwood family was taken on the Tenant Purchase program and is now living in a recently constructed home on a 138-acre farm in the King Chapel community five miles east of Perry.

Soil Conservation technicians are cooperating in Norwood's rehabilitation by suggesting improved land practices which he is following with the aim of "getting on top some of these days."

Why Mourn for Cotton?

OCT 28 1940

If a nine-months-old calf can be sold for as much as a bale of cotton, why should anybody be grieving about the dethroning of cotton as king in Georgia?

That subject is often discussed around the Macon stockyards and at the auction sales. Macon Telegraph

A cow that can be bought for fifteen or twenty dollars brings a calf each year, raising the calf on her milk, while she eats grass that the cotton farmer has to fight at considerable cost every month in the growing season. Winter grazing for the cow can be had for about the cost of planting the cotton, and the grain in the spring nets about as much as the cotton, perhaps more. Macon, Ga.

Soil devoted to constant growing of cotton is being depleted year by year; that which supports the cow and her calf is growing richer and stronger year by year.

One man with modern equipment can raise a hundred calves with the aid of the mother cows, while many men, women and children will be required to plant, hoe, plow, gather and market a hundred bales of cotton.

Two pigs at six months old, with proper feeding, will bring as much as a bale of cotton, and can be grown on the same land and with practically the same pasturage as the cows require.

Is it any wonder, then, that Georgia farmers are turning more and more to livestock growing? Providence had to punish them severely to make them abandon cotton growing. The boll weevil, the droughts caused by the destruction of humus, the rust caused by the impoverishment of the soil—those and other evils did not accomplish the task. It remained for the exodus of labor from the farms to the towns. This caused some towns to create markets for other things besides cotton, and it forced farmers to adopt something that wouldn't require so much labor. Livestock was the result.

OCT 28 1940

Atlanta Ga Constitution
October 10, 1940

Fulton Negro Farm Expenses In Sharp Rise

$6,891 Salaries Paid in 1925; $33,080 Expended in 1939.

Number of employes on Fulton county's Negro farm has more than doubled since 1925 and the annual payroll for this department has increased more than five times the amount of salaries paid these farm workers 15 years ago, figures compiled in the office of the county commission showed yesterday.

Employes and their total annual salaries are shown in the following year-by-year table:

Year.	Employes.	Salaries.
1925	11	$6,891
1926	11	8,226
1927	11	11,295
1928	13	15,894
1929	13	15,432
1930	15	16,590
1931	16	20,318
1932	16	22,067
1933	16	20,133
1934	18	22,384
1935	19	27,420
1936	21	29,532
1937	24	31,383
1938	25	32,339
1939	25	33,080

There were 25 employes on this payroll during the first six months of 1940 and in this period they were paid a total of $16,586.

Negro Farms Are Improving

OCT 27 1940

SANDERSVILLE, Oct. 26 — As a result of work by Negro extension workers in Washington county the past five years, Negro farm families of the county now enjoy economic stability and a scale of living never before attained in this section, according to extension service reports.

The program, directed by J. W. Brown, farm demonstration agent, and Janie B. Jordan, home demonstration agent, has emphasized diversified farming, soil building practices, food preservation, home improvement and general live-at-home activities.

The work of the two agents has won endorsement and financial support of the Washington county board of commissioners and cooperation of the fair association.

Negro farmers throughout the county have fall gardens in growth and winter cover crops planted. Most of them have sufficient food and feed stuff to last until next harvest season.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
October 17, 1940

NEGRO FARMER IS MAKING A SUCCESS

HAS PROVEN HIS ABILITY TO RAISE CROPS THIS YEAR IN THE NORTHERN PART OF COUNTY.

Moving here from Warren county early in January of this year, Rev. W. F. Heath of the Springfield community is making an outstanding success on a portion of the Lary place which he is renting. He is a hard worker and has the assistance of four grown sons and three daughters. With this much labor he manages to pick all of his cotton and harvest his other crops on his 4-horse farm without the necessity of hiring outside labor.

This year Rev. Heath had 150 acres in cultivation, only 25 of which were in cotton. From this small acreage he has already ginned 8 bales of cotton; has 4 bales picked out in his cotton house and his fields are still white with the staple. He expects to make between 18 and 20 bales on his allottment of 25 acres.

In addition to his cotton crop he has already harvested 118 bushels of wheat from 9 acres; will make 800 bushels of corn; plenty of cane for making syrup and has a fine year-round garden. It is unusual to note that he has a quarter of an acre in collards which are now knee high. He has three milk cows and a large herd of hogs, nine of which will be ready to kill next month.

The Ishmaelite is glad to recognize such thrift and farming ability which has been demonstrated by Rev. Heath and we heartily commend him for his efforts to succeed. The excellent crop he has made will no doubt be encouraging to other farmers who can do the same thing next year by applying a liberal amount of hard work, and thoughtful planning.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
October 27, 1940

Conscientious Work Pays Big Dividends

SPARTA, Ga.—William Heath, Negro farmer living in the Springfield community of Hancock County, is proving that conscientious work will produce farm dividends.

Heath has picked and ginned 16 bales of cotton, and made a good crop of wheat and corn. He has canned enough fruits and vegetables for consumption almost every day in the year, and has a year-round garden. His hogs will supply him ample meat for the year, while he has enough cane to make syrup for his entire family.

Many white farmers marvel at the success of this Negro farmer and attribute his success to continuous work by his entire family.

Atlanta Ga. Journal
December 4. 1940

Flint Farms Increasing Acreage in Small Grain

Annual Report Shows Project on Firm Foundation, With Plenty of Feed on Hand

By MRS. J. M. MOORE

MONTEZUMA, Ga., Dec. 3.—An annual summary prepared by Amos Ward, manager of the Flint River Farms, Negro rehabilitation project in the Montezuma District, shows that the 100 families, who are buying on long time payment the 14,000 acres which constitute the project, have made an excellent feed crop this year and have sufficient corn and hay for all the livestock on the farms.

Five hundred and thirty-five bales of cotton were produced on 1,291 acres. None of this has yet been sold. It was placed on loan, with the expectation of receiving a better price in the spring. No field peas will have to be bought for seed next spring, as each farmer planted approximately five acres from which to save his seed. This planting is classed as a soil building practice and as such is paid for by the government.

Record Grain Acreage

More small grain is being planted this fall than ever before. Only 40 per cent of the farmers grew enough wheat for bread last winter, but they are putting in wheat 100 per cent this season. The grain crop is being greatly increased, Mr. Ward said, so all will have sufficient feed for livestock and be able to reduce the large acreage of corn usually planted, giving more time to work row cash crops. For the first time they are planting barley at the farms as an experiment.

Within the next two weeks the terracing of the entire 14,000 acres will have been completed. For the past three years labor on the farms has been used on this work during the winter months.

The farmers are learning good farm management by operating under a budget which each one works out with the manager. They will receive from $21 to $25 per family during the seven months of next year beginning with February, which will be sufficient for their needs, as each family has one or two cows, chickens, meat, potatoes, and vegetables and fruits canned last summer. Mr. Ward stated that 15 of the farmers have met all their obligations and have their own money for operation of their farms next year.

Purebred hogs, mostly black Poland Chinas, have been bought by Negro 4-H Club boys and from these it is planned to stock the farms. A mattress center has been in operation all the year, using N. Y. A. help, under the supervision of the extension service, and the several hundred pupils in the project school have hot lunches every day, prepared from surplus commodities and vegetables canned from the school garden last summer.

The Flint River Farms project has been in operation since the spring of 1938. It is tenanted by the same Negroes, and is proving that general farming, under wise and thrifty management, can yield abundantly in this section.

NYA Youth Conducts Successful Poultry Project At Savannah

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Ernest Davis, son of a farmer who is a share-cropper, living several miles from Patterson, Georgia, has conducted a very successful poultry project at the Georgia State College for the past eleven months. He is a youth at the college under the guidance of the NYA out-of-school work program.

Davis has taken the combined trades a carpentry and agriculture while on the NYA project at the college, but he has devoted his extra time to raising poultry. Last spring, Davis raised a large number of chickens. After selling the surplus ones, he sent seventy-one pullets to his farm at Patterson. On October 15, 1939, Davis bought 400 baby Rhode Island Red chicks and raised 390 of this number losing only 10 or less than 30 per-cent.

From this project, he sold seventy-one dollars worth of fryers and is returning home with 155 pullets that will soon be ready to buy. These pullets are valued at from seventy-five cents to one dollar each. Total expenses on the project this year amounted to $105.000. The total sales including pullets on hand to be used as layers amounts to $187.25 which leaves to him a net profit of $82.75.

PLANS LARGE DEVELOPMENT

With the 155 pullets he has on hand the 71 pullets on his farm at Patterson, Davis expects to develop a popularity plant that will enable him to earn a satisfying living. He plans to enlarge his poultry farm and sell eggs at hotels in Waycross. He also has plans to purchase purebred pigs and two beef calves for fattening.

There are also distributed in the college community ten heifers, which are being made ready for the fat stock show which will be held during the months of March and April.

Boys and girls at the college are learning how to feed and care for animals in the most economical way. Several hundreds of these purebred calves have been placed on farms located all over Georgia through the Agricultural Extension Service. Negro students at the college are being taught and inspired to dig in where they are and to make life more what it should be for people who live on the farm.

Through the National Youth Administration, youths between the ages of 16 and 24 years are afforded work opportunities under various programs. These programs are school work program for youths attending high schools; college and graduate work program for youths in colleges and graduate schools; and the out-of-school work program for youths not attending school.

There is located at Georgia State College one of the NYA resident training projects, whereas there are others located at Forsyth, McIntosh, and Albany. These projects cater primarily to rural out-of-school youths who come and remain in training for periods ranging from nine to twelve months. The work program consists of rudimental training in many phases of vocational and occupational tasks including construction work, brick masonry, woodship work, homemaking and all types of agricultural work. In many of the towns in Georgia there are NYA projects which draw upon out-of-school youths who live at home.

Dallas Ga. New Era
April 11, 1940

Negro Farmers In Georgia Make Progress Despite Adverse Agricultural Conditions

In spite of low farm income, low market prices, and other adverse conditions, Director Walter S. Brown, of the Agricultural Extension Service, said this week that hundreds of Georgia Negro farmers have managed to make a comfortable living, own their homes, educate their children, and become respectable citizens.

Here's a brief resume of farm activities of a number of successful Negro farmers, as reported by P. H. Stone, state Negro agent for the Extension Service. These farmers, Stone says, have made "a go of farming."

Ben Halcomb of Baldwin county has a 500-acre farm of which he is owner. On this farm, he has built a modern home, barns, and smokehouses. He uses modern tillage implements and produces enough food and feed stuff to take care of the family and livestock needs. Milk cows, chickens, hogs, and a year-round garden take care of the family needs in addition to supplying some for the markets and his neighbors.

In Bibb county, R. L. Woolfolk is another farmer who has accomplished a great deal. From his 680-acre farm he has been able to make it pay for itself. There is food in abundance to care for the family needs. His farm is properly drained, silos built, pastures in good condition where one can find livestock grazing at will. He furnishes the local markets there with vegetables the year-round from his garden. Woolfolk is certainly living at home.

William Adams, a Brooks county farmer, is the owner of a 500-acre farm. Erosion has been checked, a fine crop rotation system is practiced from year to year and he is living at home. From the road one can see any number of hogs hogging off green feed. In addition, there can be seen milk cows, feeder steers, and other livestock grazing on some of the finest pastures in that section.

Eddie Wilson, of Bulloch county, has a nice farm. He took up the mortgage on his father-in-law's farm immediately after he married and is now the owner of this 200-acre farm. There is an abundance of feed to take care of the family and livestock needs.

Wesley Brigham's 200-acre farm in Burke county is a model farm. Brigham is the owner of this place. He states that his year-round garden made it possible for him to become owner of this farm.

In Crawford county is Waymond Miller who is the owner of a 320-acre farm. He has built a modern home on this place, has modern farm machinery and food in abundance to care for the family and livestock needs. He is furnishing the local markets with farm products from his farm.

Peter Barlo, of Dougherty county, has a 250-acre farm. He furnishes the meat packing plants in that section with cattle on his farm. He raises plenty of feed stuff to sell and saves enough to care for family needs. There is a hammer mill on this farm which crushes food for the livestock. He also furnishes this same type of service to his neighbors.

Iverson Ward, of Greene county, is an outstanding farmer in that section. He has a 300-acre farm and is doing a great job. On this farm there is a home nicely equipped, well-built barns and smokehouses, milk cows, hogs, chickens, a year-round garden, and food in abundance. Already there is plenty of green feed in the fields being hogged off.

Mach Crawford, also of Greene county, rented the same farm from 1910 to 1937. He paid $4200 for rent during these twenty-seven years. The place rented only sold for $1300. Recently, Crawford bought 106 acres of land. During the last three years, a house has been built, a well dug, and a barn, smokehouse, out houses, and garage built. Taxes have been paid and he owes only $70 on this entire farm.

At Dublin, in Laurens county, there is Felton Beard who is the owner of a 218-acre farm. On this place can be found improved hog houses, self feeders, range houses for chickens, and crib bins full of feed stuff to take care of livestock needs. Soil building is practiced and he believes in a year-round garden.

McRae, Ga., Telfair Enterprise
August 22, 1940

Young Colored Man Makes Good On Telfair Farm

Leroy Warren, colored, 20 years of age, has domenstrated beyond any doubt that money can be made on a farm in Telfair, if the proper effort is put forth.

Leroy has been farming with Mr. W. A. Clark for six years, on a share crop basis, and this year has twenty acres in cotton, on which poison was used, and the squares picked up, which some of his neighbors think will make a bale of cotton to the acre, but Mr. Clark does not quite agree on this, owing to the boll weevil damage during the rainy season. He also has 14 acres in fine corn. Leroy brought several stalks of the cotton to this office, which showed a heavy fruitage of well formed bolls, as well as some that had been punctured by the weevil. He also brought The Enterprise force a nice sample of his crop of Porto Rican sweet potatoes, of which he has eight acres in cultivation, that will produce 300 bushels per acre. He also has 19 head of meat hogs in the field and a milch cow.

Leroy produced a statement from Mr. Clark showing that his run bill for the year had been only 86 cents. Of course he did exra work for Mr. Clark, when not busy in his crop, and made part of his living expenses that way. Leroy says he has no time for hunting and fishing, but devotes his time to his farm work.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
April 25. 1940

NEGRO FARMERS IN GEORGIA MAKE PROGRESS DESPITE ADVERSE FARM CONDITIONS

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Mach Crawford, also of Greene county, rented the same farm from 1910 to 1937. He paid $4200 for rent during these twenty-seven years. The place rented only sold for $1500. Recently, Crawford bought 106 acres of land. During the last three years, a house has been built, a well dug, and a barn, smokehouse, out houses, and garage built. Taxes have been paid and he owes only $70 on this entire farm.

W. P. Perry, of Social Circle in Walton county, is another prosperous farmer. He has 150 acres of good land in cultivation which he purchased. Perry is a supporter of the Extension program. On his farm can be found flocks of chickens, hogs, milk cows, and other livestock, in addition to many farm implements. His farm is properly drained and he is also building his land through soil conservation practices.

At Union Point in Greene county, Miles Hackney has purchased a farm. This 150-acre farm has been practically revolutionized through soil building practices advocated by the federal AAA farm program. He has built a home, a garage, smokehouses, and barns.

What Faces the Negro Farmer?

SEP 22 1940

At the opening session of the Grand Lodge of the I. B. P. O. E. of W., Mrs. Constance E. H. Daniels of the Farm Security Administration, Washington, D. C., made a very interesting talk on the farm life or plight, particularly in the southern states, of the tenant farmer.

Savannah Journal

Among other things she said: "Each time that I speak to a group of Negroes anywhere I know that I am speaking to a group with close association to the soil. Many thousands of us, who now make our living in industry or the professions, come from the farm. Four and one-third of all Negroes in America still get their living from the land. What is happening to Negroes who farm is pretty much what is happening to all tillers of the soil in this country, for figures, as is so often true, tell only half the tory. What we find, then, in its broader outlines is not a racial situation but on economic situation common to all. In this general situation, however, the Negro farmer, as a Negro, feels the tightening of the forces militating against successful farming even more keenly than does the white farmer who is his neighbor.

Savannah, Ga.

The speaker here told of the hardships which the farmer had to suffer to live or exist. The cotton situation was discussed as it relates to the small farmer and the tenant farmer. Mrs. Daniel said that much could be accomplished by the thrifty farmer on a few acres instead of a large acreage which has heretofore been used. After reviewing the situation she concluded her remarks by saying: "What can be salvaged from such a situation few have the hardihood to predict. That whatever is done must center around the development, the rehabilitation, of the small farmer, Negro or white, owner or tenant, is "scarcely open to question. Somewhere must be found a meeting ground between the considerations of the ledger and its economic standards of size and operation and the more imperative consideration of human needs."

Statesboro, Ga., Times and News
August 29, 1940

Negro Farmers To Meet Next Tuesday

The negro members of the United Georgia Farmers will hold a special meeting for their group at the Statesboro Hig. & Industrial School Tuesday, September 3, at 8 p. m.

W. H. Smith, president of the county organization, in announcing the meeting stated that it was being arranged through the co-operation with officials of the Georgia State College in Savannah. Prof. Z. T. Hubert will represent the college on the program.

A feature of the program will be the showing of the picture, "The Negro Farmer," which shows how various negro families are improving their living conditions and carries special music by the Tuskeegee Institute choir.

Farm Family Boosts Wealth Forty Times

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Good Management Saves Group From Poverty in 1935.

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

PERRY, Ga., Oct. 13.—In 1935 worldly possessions of the Earnest Norwood family totaled only $35. Today it exceeds $1,400, an increase of more than 40 times in five years. In fact, their 1939 farm income amounted to about $600.

OCT 14 1940

This Negro farmer, his wife and nine ~~children were~~ living in poverty back in 1933. Their mule had died, and without workstock, further farming was out of the question. There was no possibility of obtaining another mule. Starvation was staring them in the face.

They were temporarily rescued by the Houston county relief rolls. But not for long. The Farm Security Administration proved their second salvation. From relief rolls, they were placed on the rural rehabilitation program in March, 1935. At that time, their poverty was almost unbelievable. The family of 11 was crowded in a tumbledown two-room shack, eating only two meager meals a day and sleeping on two double beds and one baby bed.

The year 1936, however, proved to be the turning point in their lives, after being accepted on FSA rolls. From world possessions of three chickens, one cow and one pig back in 1935, the Norwoods have prospered and today they have two good milk cows, 27 hogs of which three are brood sows, two jim-dandy mules, 30 chickens, a good garden, 296 quarts of canned food, $380 worth of food on hand and $290 in the bank. Their smokehouse contains 1,800 pounds of meat and 300 pounds of lard.

Working under the guidance of Harley W. Jones and Mrs. Inez Fagan, farm and home supervisors in Peach and Houston counties, Norwood has repaid $1,314 on a total loan over a five-year period of $1,624. During the latter part of 1939 the Norwood family was taken on the tenant purchase program and is now living in a recently constructed home on a 138-acre farm in the King Chapel community five miles east of Perry.

Soil conservation technicians are co-operating in Norwood's rehabilitation by suggesting improved land practices which he is following with the aim of "getting on top some of these days."

Cartersville, Ga., Herald
October 17, 1940

Co-Operative Efforts Pay

Mechanized far mequipment purchased cooperatively by thre Negro farmers in 1937 has proven its worth on Mitchell county crops. The Negroes R. B. Livingston, Jack Bullard and C. B. Burns, pooled their purchasing resources and bought a peanut picker, hay bailer, tractor and equipment. The cost of the machinery was $2,400. Today, after two years of successful operation, they owe only $400, having made $2,000 in two seasons.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF GEORGIA

PROSPEROUS NEGRO FARMERS IN GEORGIA

By W. A. Hagins

Why is it that in spite of low farm incomes, high cost of living, low market prices, and many other adverse circumstances, hundreds of Negro farmers throughout the state are able to make a comfortable living, own their homes, educate their children, and become respectable citizens? If the formula which these men have used could be made a common tool adopted to the use of the masses, the whole rural problem as we see it today would be greatly simplified.

A brief look at a few of these farmers might prove interesting.

Ben Halcomb of Baldwin county has a farm consisting of 500 acres of which he is the owner. He has built a modern home on this farm, barns and smoke houses. Modern tillage implements can be seen properly placed. There is enough food and feed stuff on hand to take care of the family and live stock needs. Milk cows, chickens, hogs, and a year round garden take care of the family needs in addition to supplying some for the markets and his neighbors.

In Bibb county, R. L. Woolfolk is another farmer who has accomplished a great deal. From his 680 acre farm he has been able to make it pay for itself. There is food in abundance to care for the family needs. His farm is properly drained, silos built, pastures in good condition where one can find live stock grazing at will. He furnishes the local markets there with vegetables the year round from his garden. Woolfolk is certainly living at home.

William Adams, a Brooks county farmer, is the owner of a 500 acre farm. Erosion has been checked, a fine crop rotation system is practiced from year to year and he is living at home. From the road one can see any number of hogs hogging off green feed, and down the hill further milk cows, feeder steers and other live stock grazing on some of the finest pastures in that section.

Eddie Wilson of Bulloch county has a nice farm. He was the winner in the Atlanta Constitution plan to prosper contest as being the best all-round Negro farmer in the state. He took up the mortgage on his father-in-law's farm immediately after he married and is now the owner of this 200 acres farm. There is an abundance of feed to take care of the family and live stock needs.

Wesley Brigham's 200 acre farm n Burke county is a model farm. Brigham is the owner of this place. He states that his year round garden made it possible for him to become the owner of this farm.

Up in Crawford county is Waymond Miller who is the owner of a 320 acre farm. He has built a modern home on this place, has modern farm machinery and food in abundance to care for the family and live stock needs. He is furnishing the local markets with farm products from his farm.

Peter Barlo of Dougherty county has a 250 acre farm. He furnishes the meat packing plants in that section with cattle raised on his farm. He raises plenty of feed stuff to sell and saves enough to care for family needs. There is a hammer mill on this farm which crushes food for the live stock. He also furnishes this same type of service to his neighbors.

Iverson Ward of Greene county is an outstanding farmer in that section. He has a 300 acre farm and is doing a great job. On this farm, one can find a home nicely equipped, well built barns and smoke houses, milk cows, hogs, chickens, a year round garden, and food in abundance. Already there is plenty of green feed in the fields being hogged off.

Mach Crawford of Greene county rented the same farm from 1910 to 1937. He stated that he had paid $4200.00 for rent during these twenty-seven years. The place rented only sold for $1300.00. Recently Crawford bought one hundred and six acres of land. During the last three years, a house has been built, well dug, barn, smoke house, out houses, and garage built. Taxes have been paid and he owes only seventy dollars on this entire farm.

Over at Dublin, there is Felton Beard who is the owner of a 218 acre farm. On this place can be found (A) type hog houses, self feeders, range houses for chickens, crib bins full of feed stuff to take care of live stock needs. Soil building is practiced and he believes in a year round garden.

W. P. Perry of Social Circle is another prosperous farmer. He has 150 acres of good land in cultivation which he purchased. Perry is a supporter of the Extension program. On his farm can be found flocks of chickens, hogs, milk cows, and other live stock in addition to many farm implements. His farm is properly drained and he is also building his land through soil conservation practices.

At Union Point, Miles Hackney has purchase a farm. This 150 acre farm has been practically revolutionized through soil building practices advocated by the A. A. A. He has built a home, a garage, smoke houses, barns, etc. His work there has been so impressive that the A. A. A. has issued him letters of authorization to travel over the state to tell the story of how he has used the Soil Conservation Program to build his land and forge ahead.

There are hundreds of similar cases which might be used to show that with the right kind of individual on the farm, there "is no Alps."

Negroes Cash In On Farming Work

State Extension Agent Shows Good Crops Produced

ATHENS, (AP)—Encouraging reports on the results obtained by Georgia Negroes engaged in farming activities were released here Friday by P. H. Stone, state extension Negro agent.

In Newton county, Stone said, 25 farmers have used only pure seed corn in planting their corn crops.

Jenkins county Negro farmers are reporting the best grain crop since records have been kept there.

Negroes in Hancock county are carrying on home economics demonstrations and encouraging the canning of vegetables. Two Bibb county farmers, James Peyton and Henry Land, are improving pastures. Hog production in Meriwether is on the increase, and Liberty county farmers are concentrating on hog production.

In the Peach county area the farmers' club in Kings' chapel community has purchased a grain binder.

Cartersville, Ga., Herald
June 27, 1940

Negroes Are Finding Encouragement In Georgia Farming

Georgia's Negro farmers are finding encouragement in their farming activities throughout the state, according to a report received by Director Walter S. Brown, of the Extension Service, from P. H. Stone, state Extension Negro agent.

In Newton county, 25 farmers have planted their crops with pure seed corn this year. Every cooperating farmer in the county has increased his own acreage in an effort to suuply family and livestock needs.

Grain crops of Negro farmers in Jenkins county are in better shape than ever before, due to the inauguration of recommended Extension practices. One farmer in the area has purchased a combine with which to harvest his grain, as well as give his neighbors the same service.

James Peyton and Henry Land, two Bibb farmers, are putting forth great efforts to improve pastures. Peyton has planted four acres to lespedeza, Dallis and carpet grass, while Land is growing kudzu for pasture improvement. Negroes in Hancock county are carrying on seven demonstrations in making window screens, covering walls, and canning vegetables. More than 87 percent of the farmers in one community planted vegetables on large scale this year.

Hog production in Meriwether county is on the increase. Neel Grier, Negro farmer in the Stovall community, reports over 50 hogs and pigs in good condition on his farm. This year four farmers in Evans county are producing tomatoes for demonstration projects.

Three Brooks county farmers are securing fair returns from beans, while Negroes in Dougherty county are putting forth efforts to make gardens serve a greater purpase as a home supply unit.

Fifteen Liberty county farmers are preparing pastures for their hogs, Many of the swine are being treated against cholera, with a total of 184 having been inoculated.

The homemade oil brooder is quite popular with small-scale poultry raisers in Baldwin. Negro farmers in this section are using the brooders to good advantage with turkeys. At present 200 turkeys have been started by means of the brooders.

In the Peach county area, the farmers' club in Kings Chapel community of $450 was made to one of the farmers have purchased a grain binder. A loan to purchase the harvesting machine.

Crops And Homes Given Inspection

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

By W. A. HAGINS

SAVANNAH, Ga.—(S N S)—Designed to give Georgia's farmers a better opportunity to observe conditions on the various farms where demonstrations are being conducted, organized far tours were made last month in eight counties, it was disclosed this week.

Counties affected by the tours were Mitchell, Doughtery, Terrell, Lee, Randolph, Brooks, Thomas and Lowndes. They are conducted annually under the supervision of the Georgia Extension service.

Thirty-seven farmers met at the colored high school, Camilla, Monday morning, June 17, to visit twenty-three demonstrations on nineteen farms in various sections of the county. The last demonstration visited was on the farm of Simon Marcus, who stated, in speaking to the farmers present at the barbecue given by his community, "This is the first demonstration tour for Negro farmers that I have ever witnessed, and I am sure each one of us has learned great deal to help us in our farm program."

CHECK IMPROVEMENTS

The tour on the 18th touched points in Dougherty, Terrell and Lee counties where cropping plans, sanitary toilets, livestock and gardens were observed and checked on the various farms visited. It was remarkable to see the large number of sanitary toilets that farmers have built and the number of farmers that had their croping plans and were trying to follow them.

The feeder calves that were placed with 4-H club boys in February were visited and other livestock that were being carried as demonstrations.

In these three counties, demonstrations were visited on seventeen different farms and at noon a meeting was held in the Sasser community in Terrell county. At the conclusion of the meeting, the leaders in this community served a basket dinner to those present.

On the 19th, a farm tour was held in Randolph county where visits were made to 4-H club boys who were carrying demonstrations in early corn for the purpose of feeding out calves for the Albany Fat Stock Show. The farm crop demonstrations that are carried on by farmers were visited in several communities.

SHOW PROGRESS

All of the demonstations visited during these tours in the counties named show progress and the farmers expressed themselves as anxious for these demonstration tours to become annual affairs.

June 12th representative farmers from Brooks, Thomas and Lowndes counties met at the colored school in Boston (Thomas county) to begin the sixth annual farm tour. These farm people were out to see good farming. They were out looking for the status of smoke houses, corn cribs, pantries and gardens. They had their eyes set for signs of better farm practices, clean fields, and general well-being. This was not a recreational outing either, for these were serious practical men who carefully measured every farm by his own.

During the 12th, five communities in Thomas county were visited, concluding with the wide-awake Centenary community where an old-fashioned basket dinner was served to more than a thousands tourists, guests and local people.

On the following day many of these same people were joined by others for a similar tour of Lowndes county. Crops and homes in Mt. Zon, Hahira and Minelo communities were visited. The Minelo community was host of the tour with a dinner of Lowndes county products.

On the fourteenth, many of these community leaders moved on to Brooks county to join in that county's annual tour.

This three-way farm tour is an annual event in these counties. Robert Larkin, a farmer in the St. Luke community in Thomas county stated on the first day of the tour that this annual opportunity to get out and see what the other fellow was doing towards better farming had done more than all of the other efforts he knew about combined to improve rural conditions in his community. This seemed to have been the general feeling.

These tours were conducted by J. B. Stevens, Negro County Agent.

Guests included representatives from the State Extension Servce, the Farm Security Administration, as well as local business and religious leaders.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
October 5, 1940

While Cotton Is Main Crop, Burke County Also Goes in for Diversified Farming

BY DOTY GAGE

WAYNESBORO, Ga.—Burke County's history contains many interesting events and the county as a whole is chuck full of places of unbelievable folklore. From the eastern section along the Savannah where Oglethorpe made his trips to the western section along the Ogeechee river there are many places to visit and beautiful settings for outings.

From the northern section around Keysville to the lower extremities still other places can be visited. The county is full of old ante-bellum houses. Many are not in the best of shape but legends go with all. Perhaps the most talked-of section is around Keysville and although the stories about this section are not entirely on the best side of the ledger we still can boast we have the highest and meagerest sections.

Waynesboro, a town of 3,300, and named for General Anthony Wayne is the county seat of Burke County and is noted as perhaps one of the most beautiful towns of its size in the southeast and the same is said about Gough, Girard, Midville, Vidette, Sardis and all of the small communities. The county seat is located in the center of the county and good roads mostly paved, lead into it from every section. The town has a new waterworks plant erected several years ago new courthouse annex, new county jail, one of the finest school plants in the state, and more paved streets for its size than any town in this section.

NOTED FOR ITS HOSPITALITY

Waynesboro has long been noted for its true Southern hospitality and even today everyone is everybody's friend. That "airy" distinction is not present in this community. The rich are just as poor as the poor when its time for play and enjoyment. The town is also a cheerful giver and whenever the time arises for the collection of funds for worthy causes this section is one of the first to raise its share.

The advancement of the betterment of the Negro population has grown steadily during the past few years and today the whites strive to raise the ideals of the Negroes and their efforts have been noted with the increased enthusiasm with which the Negroes display their work at every opportunity.

The principal industry of the county is farming and the principal crop is cotton although a diversified farming program has grown with leaps and bounds in the past five years. The county is the largest cotton producing county east of the Mississippi river and still raises plenty of the fleece.

Grains have grown in production yearly and today Burke County is in front in the production of oats. Many farmers are now raising all of the wheat for their home consumption as well as many bushels for the market.

TIMBER COMING TO THE FRONT

Another crop that is rapidly coming to the front is the timber and landowners are co-operating with the state department of forestry. Many landowners have devoted much acreage to reforestation and in a few years these acres will pay big dividends. Lee Webb, Burke County fire warden, has done much to safeguard the timber and at present is working with the CCC camp located here in establishing fire lanes and roads throughout the county. The county has over 200,000 acres of timbered land. Many thousands of feet of lumber have been cut in Burke during the past few years.

The Burke farmers are always striving to develop some new crop and only this year another source of income was worked out when the cooperative cannery was opened.

Products turned out at the cannery are: turnip greens, tomatoes, snap beans, field peas. All of these were raised by the local farmers and the income helped them through the slow seasons. Many cars of green tomatoes were shipped to northern markets. The cannery is owned by the farmers themselves and all have worked hard to make it a success.

Burke County has also shipped many melons in the past although the crop is not raised extensively at present. The melons from the county always were demanded at the best prices. In fact, Burke County has tried every crop to develop new money channels.

There are several large lumber mills in the county and these employ many men.

When the folk of the county rest from their work they turn to many forms of relaxation and perhaps the most popular of these are fishing and hunting and it is here that Burke County surpasses all of the counties of the state for it has been said that largest cotton county also has the largest hunting and fishing grounds of any county. Taking fishing first: The county is criss-crossed with streams from the Savannah to the Ogeechee. The finest fishing in the Southeast is in the last-named river. The river is visited yearly by thousands of fishers. Brier Creek, Rocky Creek, Buckhead Creek, Brushy Creek are other waters as well noted and in which any good angler can always make a catch.

BACK DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

The department of wildlife is backed up by the local judges 100 per cent and every defendant appearing before the bench is dealt with to the extremes of the law. Charlie Harper is the local ranger and his work aids greatly in the abundance of good fishing in these parts. There are many private ponds in the county and all of these have been stocked. No county can boast of the enthusiasm as is shown in Burke.

Burke County hunting is known throughout the Eastern section of the U. S. and many northerners come to the county during the season to hunt. Quail and dove are numerous. The terrain of the county is ideal for the feathered creatures and protection of birds is stressed always. The work of Fire Warden Webb is shown again when his efforts have aided in the decrease of forest fires and an increase of birds.

The Georgia Field Trials were rejuvenated in Burke several years ago and since that time has grown in popularity each year. Dog fanciers who attend say that this county has more birds than any that they have been in.

Many outstanding sportsmen have come from Burke and always return. The athletes of the schools are noted for their clean sportsmanship and schools from other counties are always ready to schedule games with Burke teams.

During the past year the county has seen one of the biggest building booms in its history and everywhere new buildings are going up. The farms of the county are all being improved. Livestock is gaining a foothold and many nice herds are located here.

The FSA has done wonders in the county and development of the huge Inman tract is getting under way. Some 20 families will buy farms on the place and enter a diversified farming program.

In conclusion one can only say that Burke is a fine place in which to live.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF GEORGIA

Poultry Raising Pays for Negro Student's Course

Telegraph
1-22-40

SAVANNAH, Jan. 20 (AP)—Ernest Davis, son of a sharecropper near Patterson, whiled away spare time during his studies at the Georgia State College for Negroes by raising poultry, made a cash profit and found himself with the means "to earn a satisfying living."

Benjamin F. Hubert, president of the school, said Davis, is taking the combined trades of carpentry and agriculture at the school. Starting last spring, he began raising chickens. Selling his surplus, he sent 71 pullets to the Patterson farm. By October, he was able to buy 400 Rhode Island red chicks and raised 390 of them.

From these, he sold $71 worth as fryers and is sending 155 pullets home. These are valued at from 75 cents to $1 each. With expenses adding up to $105, Davis finds that the cash from fryers and the value of his laying flock add up to $187.25.

Hubert said Davis planned to enlarge his poultry plant and sell eggs to hotels in Waycross. Along with the chickens, he plans to raise purebred pigs and beef calves.

Davis attended school with National Youth Administration help. His work illustrates, Hubert said, the college endeavor to "teach Negro boys and girls to have initiative, to take what they have and make what they need."

Monroe, Ga., News
January 23, 1940

OSCAR STONE, NEGRO FARMER GATHERS 20 BALES FROM 18 ACRES

Oscar Stone, our good colored friend, of Buncombe district, and who has been in a poor state of health for several months, was in to see us last Wednesday afternoon and we were glad to note his improvement. Oscar is one of the county's most reputable citizens —a farmer, church and order man and, reports having harvested 20 bales of cotton from 18 acres last year. He said his total poundage in lint was 10,584. "Really," said Oscar, "I am sure, by proper baling, I could have reported 21 good bales off of acreage planted.

"But," said a News representative: "How much meat did you have to the good, at hog-killing time?" "I realized over 1200 pounds." It takes such darkies as Stone to build our waste places for colored folk. Dr. John A. Pirkle is free to refer to his industry and absolute honesty.

Chatsworth, Ga. Herald
February 1, 1940

AMONG NEGRO FARMERS

In Peach county, James Williams, ex-negro club member who began a truck farm under the direction of the county agent in 1918, sold over $1900 worth of vegetables from his truck farm last year, according to P. H. Stone, state agent for negro work in Georgia . . . Negro farmers in Laurens county are operating a cooperative grist mill in Dublin, which has been running full time . . . In Brooks county the negro farm demonstration agent placed ten purebred boars and four purebred gilts in 1939.

Ga. Farm Youths Awarded Prizes

Dally Cleaned

BOSTON, Ga.—(SNS)— Washington Virgil, Rufus, Keaton and Ben Coleman composed a runner-up team in a national contest for prizes for proficiency in farm products judging. Thursday night they were presented the prizes by F. M. Staley, secretary of the New Farmers of America organization at a banquet at New Union school.

The contest was held at Bordentown, N. Y., last August. The prize was a loving cup. Virgil was awarded medals for individual high points in farm judging. Each member of the team was given a medal as the best judging team in the state. Solomon Baker, principal of New Union school, trained the team.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
January 24, 1940

NEGRO FARMERS SHOW PROGRESS

Georgia Colleges Play Important Part in Agricultural Extension Work

By W. A. HAGINS

ATHENS, Jan. 23—Releases have just been made from the annual report of Georgia Negro extension work which show the work since its beginning in 1914 as well as something of the field activity in 1939.

The report starts with the appointment of the first agent, the late E. A. Williams, in September 1914 and traces the steady growth of the work to its present staff of 63 persons.

The part which the Georgia State Industrial College, Walker Baptist Institute, Fort Valley High and Industrial school, the Americus Institute, Jeruel Institute, Morris Brown University and other schools played in lending direction and background to the early work is brought out in this narrative. Stories of some of the typical early struggles in the face of poor methods of transportation, general suspicion and poorly developed procedure, bring out an appreciation for the tact and faith of these pioneers, the first agents.

Another section of this report deals with the activity development. It explains the early inspirational program of meetings and clubs of handicraft and simple but eye-attracting demonstrations. Pictures of these early activities lend added interest to this report.

There is striking contrast, the parade of accomplishments for 1939 show the vast changes which 25 years have made in the Negro extension work.

Disease Control Stressed

Demonstrations in corn, cotton, potatoes, hogs and other standard farm needs continued to receive attention, but services in the control of livestock diseases, the reclamation and maintenance of soil fertility, promotion of better health, and the assistance in promoting a better farm income through better marketing information and technique have brought to the front the basic need of this work as the foundation of all farm improvement efforts.

The practical advisement on problems of farm and home and community concerns and assistance in explaining the work of other federal agencies are just samples of the wide range of activity involved in the program last year.

Approximately 1,000 communities and neighbors were engaged in some form of extension activity.

More than 800 training meetings were held attended by 7,000 persons.

One thousand eight hundred and 85 field meetings were held to study result demonstrations. These meetings had a combined attendance of more than 28,000 people.

Co-op Mill Formed

Farmers in Laurens county organized a co-operative grist mill. Full equipment was placed in a downtown building in Dublin and this mill has been running full time.

In the Royal community in Washington county a group of farmers through the facilities of the Farm Security Administration has purchased and operated a complete tractor outfit consisting of a combine, grain drills, disc plows, etc.

In Peach county, James Williams, one of the club members who began a truck farm under the direction of the county agent in 1918, has continued to show signs of progress each year. This year he sold more than $1,924.65 worth of vegetables from his truck farm.

Brooks Summary

To illustrate the range of activity employed by the farm demonstration agents in swine production, the following summary was taken from the Brooks county 1939 annual report:

2,961 hogs inoculated against cholera.

7,000 pounds of meat treated against bugs.

7,400 pounds of meat cured in home storage.

489 hogs castrated.

320 hogs spayed.

Nine hog killing demonstrations held.

Two self feeders built.

Two hog houses built.

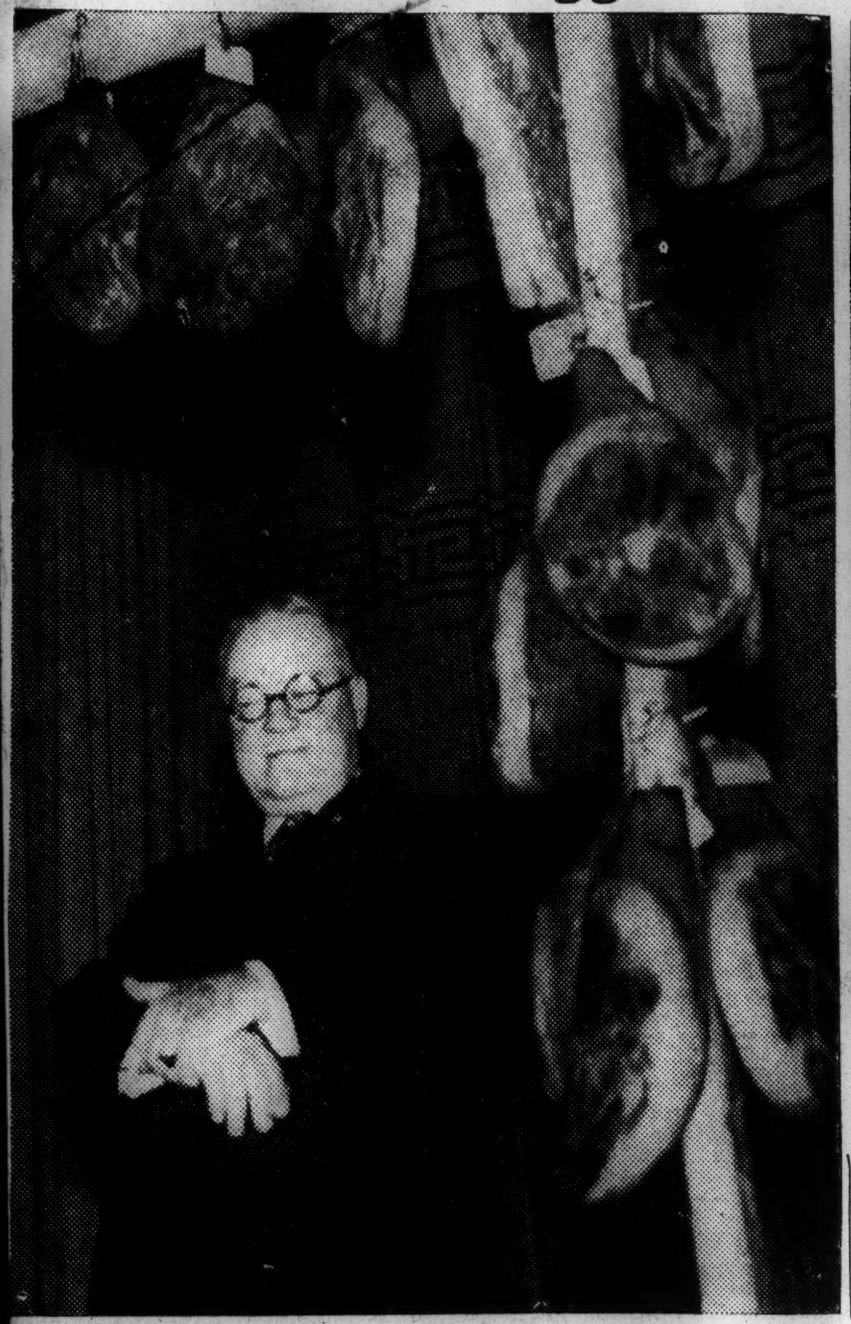
Ten males placed.

Four purebred guilts placed.

Eight demonstrations given in feeding hogs.

The supervisory staff of Negro extension work in Georgia is composed of P. H. Stone, state agent for Negroes; Miss Camilla Weems, assistant state agent for Negro work; Alexander Hurse, Negro state club agent and Z. T. Hubert, assistant Negro state club agent. They stated they were well pleased with the progress made for 1939.

Ham And Eggs---In Raw---Get Together At Fort Valley



FRAMED BY HAMS, W. T. Anderson, publisher of The Macon Telegraph and News, who has attended the ham-egg shows for 22 of the 23 years of their existence, urged the Negro farmers to adopt a uniform curing formula to make Georgia hams famous for texture and flavor.



GOOD EGGS played second fiddle to good hams at the ham-and-egg show at Fort Valley State College Thursday and Friday but the eggs exhibited would stack up well against any produced anywhere. E. S. O'Neal, Negro farm agent for Peach county, and Mamie Miller, progressive farm woman of Peach county, inspect some of the prize eggs in the exhibit. (Coke photos by Etheridge.)

PLAN LONG-LEASE HELP FOR TENANTS

SEP 21 1940

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Abbeville, La., Sept. 20.—Lester C. Abadie, farm security administration supervisor, declared that plans of the FSA are to discourage the practice of farm tenant families to move each year by arranging long-term leases which will enable the tenants to remain in one place.

Mr. Abadie said that approximately 100 low income farm families will be added to the program in Vermilion parish during the 1941 crop year. Many of these families, he stated, will get long-term leases for the first time.

"For years it has been the practice or custom in Vermilion parish for tenants to move each year," Abadie stated. "This has become such an expensive custom in the loss of human and natural resources that it has attracted the attention of agricultural leaders of the nation."

"Surveys show that it cost the tenant farm family $50 each time it moves and that the landowner's loss is even greater. The community also loses by so much moving, because the families do not stay in a community long enough to contribute to its well being," stated Abadie.

"In attempting to help the farm families rehabilitate themselves, the FSA has worked out a flexible farm lease that provides a basis for longer term leases which benefits the tenant, owner and community. Many of the troubles of farm families are due to shortsightedness. We have planned on a one-year basis because of a one-crop system of farming. We learned that this does not pay because it brings poverty to the people and steals the fertility of the soil," continued Abadie.

"Underf the FSA rehabilitation program we are urging the farm tenants to secure long leases—three- to five-year leases—and we are seeking the co-operation of the landowners in this program. Low-income farm families need long leases if they are to rehabilitate themselves and the land they farm.

"Owners know that it has been the practice of tenants to mine the soil each year—but with a long-term lease, it is to the advantage of the tenant and the landowner to work together to improve the fertility of the soil. The FSA aids, too, by establishing environmental sanitation programs in some parishes where the tenants have long-term leases."

Memphis (Tenn.)
Commercial Appeal

LOW INCOME FARMS VISITED BY JOHNSON

SEP 12 1940

Governor Says Families Must Have More

BAY SPRINGS, Miss., Sept. 11.—Leaving official duties and titles behind at the Governor's mansion in Jackson, Paul B. Johnson, the farmer, went to five low income farm families personally Wednesday to lear nfrom their own lips their problems and to see how the Farm Security Administration is helping these families help themselves.

FSA officials, Governor Johnson, and Tom M. Hederman, Sr., publisher of the Clarion Ledger, were honored at a luncheon by the Rotary Club here as part of the "Know Your Farm Tour," which is being conducted this week in Jasper, Pearl River, Stone and Harrison Counties.

Speaking before the Rotary Club, Governor Johnson declared: "I'm vitally interested in the work that the Farm Security Administration is doing. I came to see with my own eyes and ears the problems of the low income farm families. I wanted to see how they are doing. I have seen—we must raise their income and give them a greater opportunity to have a more comfortable living."

Delta And Pine Land Tenants Learn Live At Home Lessons

DEC 1 1940

Special to The C

GREENVILLE, Miss., Nov. 30.—If there's a sharecropper on Delta & Pine Land Plantation at Scott, Miss., whose diet this Winter is limited to meal, molasses and pork, he is one of two things: a benighted soul, immune to improvement, or by nature a confirmed iconoclast.

For at Delta Pine, largest cotton plantation in the world, 852 tenant farmer families have during the past year learned to live at home and like it.

Johnston Proud Of Program

Similar in purpose to the gospel of planting to prosper, spread so effectively throughout the Mid-South by The Commercial Appeal, the Smith-Hughes vocational agriculture and home economics program, after one year's trial at D. & P. L., is the special pride of Oscar Johnston, manager of Delta Pine.

The work is directed by two negroes, C. L. Gibson and Ivry Mae Kindred, both graduates of Alcorn College, whose salaries from the Smith-Hughes organization are supplemented by D. & P. L to secure their full-time service.

Results of one year under the program recently were displayed in an exhibit at the two-room Lake Vista School, facing Lake Bolivar, near Scott. Chief judges were R. A. Scott, county director of Smith-Hughes work, Mrs. Early Ewing and Mrs. H. E. Cartledge of Scott.

On shelves lining the two rooms to the ceiling was jar after jar of fruits and vegetables, put up under the supervision of the program director. On the floor and tables were homemade farm implements, household furniture and prize products of tenant gardens. In one room were displays of rival Live-at-Home units, exhibits showing the variety of products raised by the groups at Triumph, Vista or Young Plantations, smaller divisions of Delta Pine. Racks were filled with cotton frocks, tailored suits, and even hats made during the home economics classes conducted nightly at the school.

As colorful as a display of antique glass is the sight of 51,620 jars of fruits and vegetables which have been put up so far this year. These do not include the meats, which are to be canned in December, or the thousands of jars put up by tenant pupils in their own homes after the supervisory period is completed.

Gay Colors In Jars

Golden pumpkin, pearly corn, scarlet and green peppers, deep red beets—the colors make a pattern as gay as a cabin quilt against the wall. On the decorated shelves are more jars—Cole slaw, snowy white potatoes, peaches, pears and pickled onions.

On the floor are mounds of great ears of corn, as long, full and perfect as Iowa's best; Gargantuan pumpkins, golden kershaws and purple-splashed turnips big enough to feed a family of five—and every conceivable thing, from chicken to chitterlings. The chicken is cut up when there is a surplus of friers, cooked briefly in hot fat, and put up in the streilized jars until a leaner season. The chit'lings? A little warming, a bit of corn pone, and there's a banquet for a Winter evening.

After the supervised canning, the vocational worker makes his rounds to check up on his pupils. The results are encouraging. For every jar in the exhibit, there are a dozen on the shelves of D. & P. L. cabins.

Thrift, ingenuity—these qualities are stressed most in the program. The value of the training is obvious when one observes the unique uses to which the negroes have converted the most humble things.

Corn shucks are woven in newer and better designs for horse-collars, or used as a tough fiber to weave chair bottoms that are both beautiful and sturdy.

Resourcefulness appears everywhere in the exhibit: tinfoil is twisted into a glittering picture to brighten a cabin wall; burnt out light globes are transformed with a bit of paint into gay Christmas tree baubles. In one corner of the room is the pride of the exhibit a stove made by one of the negroes, who kept the top and bottom of an old stove which had burnt out in the center and soldered them on a brand new poison can.

All Kinds of Food

In the Live-at-Home booths are eggs, lard, butter, meats, preserves, and vegetables, towels and aprons made of old cotton sacks and a bottle of dewberry wine. There's a dressing-table, draped with cretonne, a cheese box converted into a travelling bag, an orange crate into a shoe box.

On the walls are hung the best quilts of the plantation, all bright and intricate in pattern, but none so truly creative as those made by Lizzie Alexander, who has lived with her husband for 53 years in a cabin that is the oldest dwelling in Bolivar County.

For 52 of those years, Lizzie's husband has made a cotton crop, missing only once, in 1927, the year of the "Big Water." It is that flood which Lizzie has commemorated in her quilts.

One is made up of squares, miniature Red Cross flags, and on the blue space running between, is quilted again and again, April 21, 1927—Flood.

On the other quilt is Old Glory—stars, stripes and all—and down one side is patched a stern reminder to all who sleep beneath its padded warmth: Remember the Red Cross.

DELTA FARM MANAGER GIVEN CHURCH HONOR

Memphis Tenn.
DEC 9 1940

Son Of Slaves Directs Large Tunica Plantation

Special to The Commercial Appeal

TUNICA, Miss., Dec. 8.—Van Morgan, credited by many with being the best plantation manager, white or black, in the entire Delta will be honored Monday night for his 35 years service in the Walton Chapel (negro) Church.

Morgan, born in De Soto County 58 years ago, was the son of slaves. He has lived on the Dockery Plantation in Tunica County for 37 years and has been its manager for the past 21 years. He first worked for the late Will Dockery, who owned extensive Delta acres, and he says his present employer, Joe Rice Dockery, the son and heir, "He is the kindest, most intelligent man in the whole world."

Van, who has never been away from home in his life, is the "father" of the 24 families who live on the plantation. He rules the destinies of their lives with a firm but kindly hand. He has instilled in them the virtues of truth and always deals gently with them if they tell the truth.

He is respected by both white and black and is known far and wide for his ability to handle the tenants on the Dockery plantation. Van doesn't have the usual trouble with dissatisfied tenants who move away before the crops are completed or who leave the planter "holding the bag," for their debts.

Van and his wife, Izora, have one son, Tommy Morgan, who has lived in Memphis for the past six years. He is chauffeur to Dr. J. W. Monk.

Van is also the most outstanding member of his church, Walton Chapel, and his fellow Christians are celebrating his long years of work with an anniversary program, to be held Monday night because Van would not consider losing a day's work gathering the crops. He is a "class leader." He visits the church members, giving advice and urging them to live within the dictates of the church and setting a splendid example for them to follow.

One of Van's gifts will be $100 from his boss man, Joe Rice Dockery.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITIONS, IMPROVEMENT OF

MISSISSIPPI

Delta Studies Its Examples—Sets One!

With Western Europe locked again in devastating war, there is something reassuring about meetings such as that of the Delta Council in Cleveland and Greenville Friday night.

True, the war skulked on the sidelines, a sinister figure in virtually everything that was said and done. But the determination of the men and women assembled to put our house in order and to attack our problems with well-considered judgment amounted to rededication to American democratic principles.

Government officials, leaders of industry and finance, and professional men were present to hear agriculture voice its troubles and the plans to dispose of them.

Considerable discussion resulted from the question of methods of distributing the 50 or 60 millions that will be allocated to cotton under the Farm Appropriations Bill. The export subsidy plan was pretty generally favored over continued use of cotton stamps financed from agriculture's funds, principal argument being that the stamp scheme was really a relief measure and the producer got at best but 25 per cent benefit of the money expended, the remainder going to processor, distributor and merchant.

The Commercial Appeal opposed the export subsidy plan at its inception, believing this country actually was diverting farm benefits to foreign manufacturers at the expense of our own processors. Apparently, however, the plan worked. But what has the war done to an export subsidy? Where, now, are the outlets? Would it not be better to concentrate on urging parity payments (and there is no reason to apologize so long as this Nation can afford to subsize industry to keep production materials at a high level) and the stamp plan regardless?

There is no doubt that the cotton stamp plan is for the primary benefit of the "submerged third," and as such should derive its funds from relief appropriations, but there is also the inescapable fact that it does move cotton goods. That means that while the cotton producer gets only 25 per cent, it is our own economic machinery being set in motion by the plan, and it may be of more lasting good, all things considered.

One of the speakers made a significant contribution when he pointed out that agriculture's part of total national income must be 15 billions of dollars if there is to be prosperity in the Nation as a whole. This is not possible under an economy of scarcity or restriction.

It is a corollary of the capitalistic system We must continue to expand. The capitalistic system cannot stand still or curtail.

Chief weakness in our application of the capitalistic system has been in distribution The stamp plan has in its favor the fact that it does give impetus to distribution and we should consider carefully before we do anything to impair it.

Another speaker came out boldly for suspension of the Johnson Act to give debtor nations the right to buy American goods on credit. There is no doubt of a growing sentiment in Washington for this. Our tremendous gold deposits and the threat of barter nations to the gold standard make a move in this direction imperative.

Expressions of support for a huge rearmament program were heard on every side. Cotton's representation in such a program was stressed.

In all, there was an awareness, an appreciation of what lies before us and a purposefulness about the gatherings to inspire confidence that this section is pushing along the road to co-ordination. Herein lies the answer for the Nation to that abomination, totalitarianism.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

NORTH CAROLINA

13-Point Rural Program Urged for N. Carolina

Afro American
2-3-40
Baltimore, Md.

GREENSBORO, N.C.—A program of thirteen points to secure vocational opportunities for colored farm youth in North Carolina was recommended by the first State-wide vocational and agricultural conference, meeting at A. and T. College, Friday.

Thirteen Points Listed

The thirteen point program follows:

1. Father and son co-operation, or father and son partnership;
2. Production of quality farm products such as eggs, poultry and purebred hogs and livestock;
3. Ownership of land through balancing livestock income with crop income on colored farms in the State;
4. Utilization of existing educational agencies;
5. Raising the standard of rural living so as to make rural life more attractive to farm youth;
6. Young men should develop some skill with general farm tools and be able to make common repairs on the farm;
7. Use of existing credit agencies such as 4-H and NFA group loans, direct to individuals, productive credit loans and long-term loans from Federal Loan Banks;
8. Utilization and conservation of the land resources in the State;
9. Co-operative canneries, etc.;
10. Marketing of several crops in the State and nearby easter nmarkets, such as poultry, livestock, fruits, and others;
11. Part-time activities to give part-time employment to colored youth on farms;
12. Increasing of dairy herds among colored families as well as increase of cows on farms;
13. A careful study of the operation of the laws of supply and demand in a competitive market.

Greensboro, N. C. News
February 18, 1940

NEGRO FARMER BUYS AND PAYS FOR TWO FARMS IN THREE YEARS







A SUCCESS STORY—These pictures tell the story of a successful young negro farmer in Pender county, who has come all the way from a public worker in the city, farm laborer, sharecropper to the owner of two farms clear of all indebtedness. Robert Lee McAllister, shown at lower left ,is the man who has accomplished this—and he never even completed a year in high school. At the top left is his cozy home at Rocky Point and at the right is his meat-packing house, in front of which is one of the modern pieces of equipment McAllister uses in his farming activity, with Nathan Johnson driving. Below is a hog killing scene at his meat house. McAllister and his wife are standing in front.



M'ALLISTER PROVES GOOD FARMING PAYS

Rocky Point Man Builds Profitable Farm and Meat Business Within Few Years.

By S. B. SIMMONS,
Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture In Negro Schools.

The farms still offers a fair chance to the young man who plans his rogram and puts forth his best efforts into carrying out his plans. At least that is the experience of Robert Lee McAllister, young negro farmer and pioneer meat dealer of Rocky Point, who has built up the leading wholesale meat produce business among his race in the south.

McAllister did not find the road an easy one and the manner in which he made himself an articulate force for business progress in a small community resembles one of the leading characters in a Horatio Alger story.

McAllister is a former student of vocational agriculture at the Pender County Training School, Rocky Point. He was forced to leave school before completing one year of high school work in 1923. At the age of 15, when most youngsters are in school, McAllister went to Wilmington to do public work as a means of gaining a livelihood for himself and his parents. But city life did not appeal to his nature so he returned to the Rocky Point section in 1925 where he began work as a farm laborer. From this position he advanced to sharecropper and thence to independent meat salesman.

Like all young men who feel they are started on the upward road in life, the move of marriage was next in line, and he began the purchase of a small farm. The depression of 1929 caught McAllister in its grip like many others and he was forced to start all over again. By 1936, he had by dent of hard work saved enough money to begin purchasing his present farm. The money for the purpose was raised by the selling of high quality vegetables on the Wilmington and northern markets. As a result of his efficient methods of farming, a surplus of farm products remained each year. To convert these unsold products into cash, he began producing and preparing hogs for market

From this modest beginning on 14 acres of farm land, he has bought and paid for two farms of which 55 acres are cultivated. He has further expanded his swine program from one brood sow to 10 brood sows. From these he annually raises approximately 150 hogs for the market.

The McAllister farm is modern in every respect. The meat house is open for inspection at all times

Time saving equipment and scien- hog raising program, he furnishes faction is tific management are given major an accessible cash market for hogs his fellow consideration. Much of the work grown by the agricultural students is done with Farmall tractors. Tem- and farmers of the community. porary pastures are enclosed with The success of this farm busi- the latest battery electrical equip- ness program has been due large- ment. ly to the fine support given Mc- In the course of three years, Rob- Allister by his wife and Prof. S. C. ert McAllister has developed a Anderson, the local teacher of vo- wholesale business in pork hams, cational agriculture, and both races shoulders, spare ribs, puddings, and of the community. His greatest sat- sausages. In addition to his own

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2-3-40 Baltimore Afro

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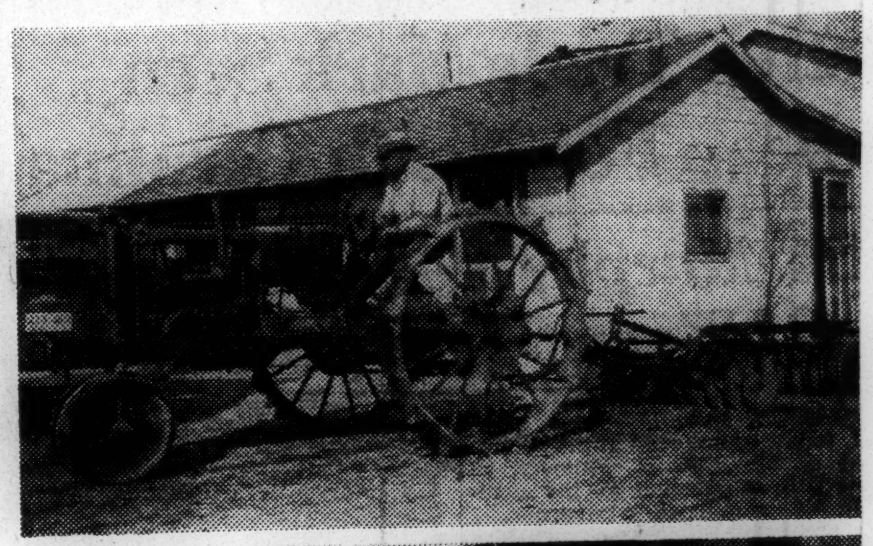
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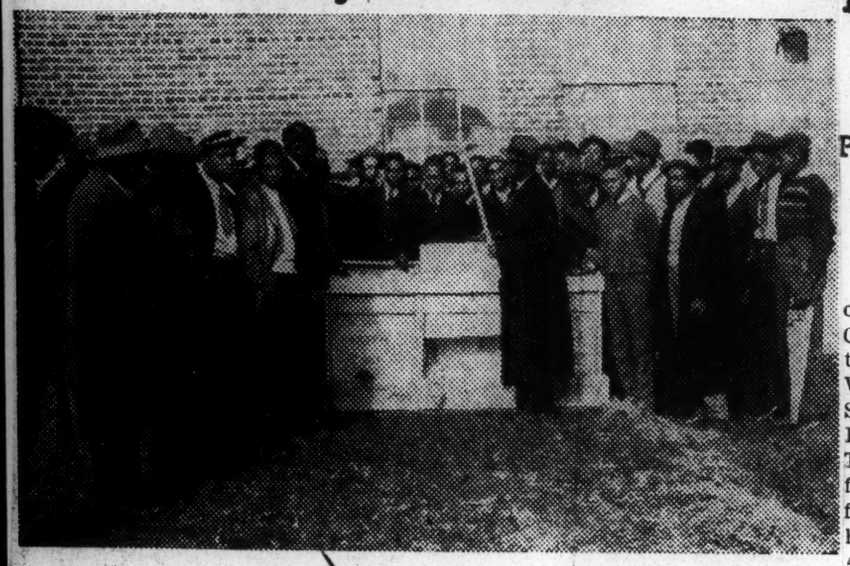
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Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 19, 1940

Study Self-Feeder



North Carolina Negro farmers also are becoming interested in the better methods of growing and feeding swine. The above picture shows a group of Negro farmers and students at the State Teachers College for Negroes at Elizabeth City studying a swine self-feeder which they have just built under the direction of H. M. Ellis, extension agricultural engineer at State College. E. F. Colson, Negro farm agent in Pasquotank County, may be seen in the front center explaining how the feeder is used.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
October 7, 1940

FREE MATTRESSES GIVEN TO NEGRO FARM FAMILIES

The nation's huge cotton surplus is directly responsible for more comfort among low-income Negro farm families of Wake County, says M. H. Crockett, Negro farm agent of the State College Extension Service.

As part of a nation-wide plan to remove a part of the cotton surplus, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has allotted each state a certain number of bales to be utilized for making mattresses. Low-income farm families are eligible to receive these mattresses, without charge.

In Wake County, the mattresses are being made at the Old Soldiers Home in Raleigh. Those who have applied for the mattresses assist in the making. Mrs. Bertha M. Edwards, Wake Negro home agent, supervises the work.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
February 2, 1940

Braswell Farms Planning To Help Tenant Farmers

Pearsall and Lecroy Assist the Tenants in Building Home Gardens on Farms

The Braswell Company, which operates farms in Eastern North Carolina, is doing something about the tenant problem reports F. D. Wharton, Negro farm agent of the State College Extension Service in Edgecombe County. He says that Thomas J. Pearsall, manager of the farms, and T. H. LeCroy, one of the farm overseers, are cooperating with him in promoting home gardens, 4—H Clubs, and community and county betterment.

A year-round demonstration garden is being planted in Edgecombe County as an object lesson for the tenants. The land has been selected and actual work will start February 1, Wharton stated. The tenants are all being supplied with mimeographed copies of the garden plan and are being advised by the farm officials to observe and follow the practices used in the demonstration garden.

Fancy vegetables are not included, but rather those practical and substantial vegetables which should be found in every garden, the agent explained. He expects to furnish the Braswell tenants information from time to time on planting dates, insect and disease control, and other phases of garden culture.

The Company also has built a community house for the use of its tenants, and has purchased a motion picture projector with whicch to show films of Extension ativities with Negro farmers.

Mr. LeCroy is cooperating in the organization of Negro 4H Clubs for children of the tenant families, and is encouraging corn, pig, garden, sweet potato, and home grounds improvement projects.

Reidsville N. C. Review
December 18, 1940

Outstanding Negro Farmers to be Awarded Prizes Thursday Night

Negro farmers who won first places in wheat growing contest, corn growing contest and fat hog contest will be awarded prizes at the Second Annual Negro Farmers Achievement meeting tomorrow night. Winners in the corn and wheat growing contest were announced recently. After killing and weighing some 50 fat hogs in various communities of the county this week, the fattest hogs were recorded yesterday in the Groom and Haw River communities. The names of the winners and weights of the hogs will be announced at the meeting. The most outstanding 4-H club boy in the county will be awarded a prize and a report of his project will be heard.

Farmers from nearly every community in the county including Garrett Grove, Oregon Hill, Potent Jones, Groom, Haw River, etc., are expected to be present. All teachers, preachers, business men and local merchants are invited to attend. The meeting is being sponsored by the Rockingham Negro Bull Association.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
December 23, 1940

A NOTABLE FARM PROGRAM

A farm and home program of inestimable value in the rural life of Hamilton County is that conducted under the capable leadership of Mrs. J. B. Lauderbach, Home Demonstration Agent in this County for twenty-nine years. In a report summarizing the work in 1940, Mrs. Lauderbach comments: "In closing the Home Demonstration program of 1940, we are pleased to report a full program of work brought to completion, its influence reflected in happy families in many farm homes."

No news report could emphasize properly the high value of the work directed among the farm women and girls by Mrs. Lauderbach's division of the County Department of Agriculture. The full text of the report made public by her office contains a detailed narrative of accomplishments with women's and girls' clubs, in marketing and handicraft, nutrition, home improvement, recreation, improvement of public areas, work among the Negroes and co-operation with home economics departments of high schools and other groups.

In working with various organizations of farm women, the Home Demonstration Agent and her assistant, Miss Chassie Shelton, aid and advise the Country Woman's Club, garden clubs and many home demonstration clubs and women members of the Farm Bureau. Similar work is done with the Girls' 4-H Clubs and outstanding records have been made both with the adult and youth organizations. Food preservation has been emphasized in many of these clubs and resulted in more than 100,000 quarts of canned fruits and vegetables. Vegetable gardens now are in evidence on approximately 560 farms, 250 families have year-'round gardens and 1,000 families have flower gardens.

Home beautification has been made a goal and hundreds of farm families have been shown simple, inexpensive ways to improve the appearance of their homes. The program has influenced the installation of dozens of modern conveniences and additional electrical equipment in many farm residences. Farm women and their daughters have been taught how to make themselves more attractive by the proper selection of wearing apparel. Clothing work has been a major project in the schools and clubs. The Department has co-operated whole-heartedly with all public and civic agencies which have sought to aid the farm people.

The full list of achievements of the women's division of the County Department of Agriculture included in Mrs. Lauderbach's report would be a credit to her work if it represented accomplishments of several years. The more praise is due, therefore, because all the work outlined was completed during 1940.

Windsor, N. C., Advance
June 28, 1940

Bertie Negro Farmers View Progress Made During Year

Tour Surveys Home Improvements And Modern Practices On Farms

On Tuesday, June 18th, the annual county-wide farm and home tour was conducted under the supervision of the Negro county and home agents with approximately fifty farmers, farm women and others taking part. The group visited farms and homes where outstanding work had been done through the state extension service, FSA and other agencies.

The tour began at the office of J. C. Hubbard, Negro county agent, where the group assembled. From the Agent's office the group first visited the mattress making project in Windsor, for observations in mattress making. Leaving this project the following places were visited:

W. H. Carter home: At the Carter homestead in Cashie Neck, the group saw an automatic self-feeder for sows, a Delco power system and running water facilities made possible by the power plant, also a kitchen improvement project. This is the only Negro farm home in the county with a bathroom.

J. M. Stewart place: From the Carter place the group visited the farm and home of J. M. Stewart recently purchased through the FSA. Besides the modernly constructed home, observations were made of the improved air-conditioned poultry house, farrowing house and other outbuildings. Special note was made of the interior of the home in the utilization of all available closet space.

T. R. Speller: The group next visited the farm of T. R. Speller where the group saw the results of a swine sanitation demonstration that is being conducted by Speller. This demonstration was started last fall when Speller started a temporary pasture of crimson clover and winter oats. During the early spring he purchased a farrowing house and placed it on the pasture. Following the recommendations of his Negro county agent, before time for his sow to farrow, she was washed and placed in the house where she farrowed seven pigs. All pigs are still living. Speller also showed the gorup ten hogs that he is feeding out for the market. He stated that these ten hogs were born during November and December 1939. They will average from 175 to 200 pounds each. He has been feeding them for 72 days.

From the neck section the group went to the home of Alvin Cherry who lives in the Sam's Chapel community. Here observations were made of the yard beautification and kitchen improvement projects. The lawn had been sown in gress and several pieces of lawn furniture constructed. The kitchen had been ceiled with card board and painted, wood box, garbage pail stand, storage space and towel racks had been constructed.

Leaving Cherry's the group visited the FSA farm and home purchased by J. H. Bazemore of the Mt. Olive community. Here the group saw the modernly constructed home, purebred hogs and a bull purchased cooperatively through the FSA.

The next stop was at the Mt. Olive church where the 4-H club had conducted a beautification project on the church grounds and the Mt. Olive community center. While at the center the group assembled and spread lunch. Following the lunch remarks relative to the tour were given by J. W. Mitchell, Negro state agent, J. C. Hubbard, Negro county agent, Mrs. L. H. Woodhouse, Negro home agent, T. M. Garris, president of the County Agricultural Advisory board, J. D. Lennon and M. W. Coleman, teachers of vocational agriculture, Mrs. L. E. Hubbard, Rev. J. H. Bazemore and Rev. I. B. Brinkley.

From Mt. Olive the group visited the farm and home of T. M. Garris. Here observations of a poultry project, yard beautification and swine work. Garris has a poultry house that was constructed under the supervision of the Negro county agent. He told the group that since the construction of his house, practically every farm within a distance of three miles of his home had constructed a house of some type. He stated that although they were not built according to the plans furnished by the state extension service they were much better than the ones previously seen in the community.

Leaving Garris' the group went to Wm. Hoggard's, who lives in the Piney Wood Chapel community. At Hoggard's the yard beautification, kitchen improvement and garden projects were observed.

From Hoggard's the group went to the home of Arthur Jordan at Colerain. Kitchen improvement and poultry work were observed. The home agent pointed out the advantages of electricity in the home as it had been electrified through the RFA. In the kitchen, storage space, towel racks, garbage pail stand and wood box had been constructed. A modern poultry house, brooder house and brick brooder were among the observations made in poultry work.

Leaving the Jordan homestead the group visited another poultry project at the home of Frank Gaskins. This farm home also has electricity.

From Gaskins' the group visited the county Rural Recreation Center for Negroes and the Ashland school garden project.

Lumberton, N. C. Robersonian
July 26, 1940

County Picnic Of Negro Farm Folk Is Well Attended

Speaker Urges Balanced Farming Instead of Hobbyhorse Stuff.

By E. B. Watts and S. T. Brooks
Negro Home & Farm Agents

An estimate of between 800 and 900 farm men and women from 15 various organized communities were present at the annual county-wide farmers picnic for Negroes at Pleasant Grove Wednesday, July 24, under the auspices of the Negro farm and home agents.

A very interesting program was held which was opened by singing "Certainly Lord," led by Thethus Jerald of Proctorville community. Avata Graham of the same club served as mistress of ceremony. Invocation was given by Dan Simmons of Shannon Farmers club. Dovie McKey, president of Pleasant Grove Home Demonstration club, gave the welcome address, followed by a response by Will Powell, president of Greenville Farmers club.

S. T. Brooks, Negro farm agent, gave a short talk urging the group to keep up with the changing world and work for economic, social, political and spiritual security. He explained the reason for the farmers picnic, which is to offer recreation which he named along with the other essential things of life, namely, food, shelter, clothing, religion, education, health, friends, hitting lightly on each.

Urges Balanced Farming

Two selections were given by the Oak Ridge Glee club, after which John W. Mitchell, State agent, the speaker for the day, gave an interesting address on "It Could Be Worse." He started his discourse by stating the conditions of the world today and stated that regardless of conditions, things could be worse. Stop thinking of farming from a standpoint of going out in the field, but from a standpoint of making a living for the entire family. Think farming from a balanced standpoint. We have been doing hobby horse farming. Each year we start out with good crops and determination to get ahead, but end up just where we started. The farm program and restriction on crops should make us rejoice because the government pays the farmers, and by having smaller acreage, we have time to live like people instead of living like slaves. Our wives have more time to beautify the homes and look after the children. Farm women have heretofore been slaves to the farm, but are now free. Farmers have been able to prevent mortgagees by taking advantage of government loans to make crops and buy farms. We have the opportunities to learn how to farm, get an education to improve ourselves, but conditions could be far worse. Do not get discouraged. Next year we can look back over the things we wanted to do and say "God knew better than I."

Announcements were made, after which, dinner, lemonade and water melon were served on the grounds.

The next picnic will be held at John Lewis in 1941.

Roxboro, N. C. Courier
June 27, 1940

Meat Contest Draws Interest

Many Prizes Awarded In Meat Show By Negro Farmers Saturday

The first ham show ever sponsored bq negro farmers of Person County was held Saturday in a vacant store building owned by L. K. Walker, located on Main street.

According to A. W. Jones, Teacher of Vocational Agriculture and C. J. Ford, Negro County Agent, sponsors of the show said it was successful in every respect. Ford and Jones, stated that approximately 100 pieces of meat were exhibited by farmers in every section of Person County. "Approximately 350 persons visited the show and made favorable comments concerning the activity."

"Cash donations of $4.00 were made by interested friends for the purpose of defraying miscellaneous expenses, which amounted to $6.22. Prizes were donated by 33 firms and individuals of Roxboro and Person County" Ford and Jones said.

It was stated that the purpose of the show was to encourage meat growers of Person County to not only grow more and better meat, but to kill, cure and store it better.

Mr. E. V. Vestal, Extension swine specialist and Mr. C. D. Swaffar of the Meats Department of State College, Raleigh, N. C. did the judging. The meat was judged according to appearance, trimming and flavor, with flavor receiving the greatest attention. Mr. Vestal stated that Mr. Swaffar did the judging and he assisted.

Below are the names of individuals that won prizes and the names of the firms and individuals donating:

First prize for best ham, won by Nat Villines, given by Piedmont Furniture Company.

First prize for best shoulder, won by Nat Villines, given by Roxboro Lumber Company.

First prize, best middling, won by Tom McGhee, given by T. W. Pass and Company.

First prize, heavy ham, won by Rev. Samuel Hayes, given by Tar Heel Chevrolet Company.

First prize, medium ham, won by Dallas Villines, given by Watkins & Bullock.

Second prize, light ham, won by W. L. Bass, given by Big Four Grocery Company.

Second prize, shoulder, won by Alex McCain, given by R. R. Roberson, Woodsdale.

Second prize, middling, won by W. L. Bass, given by Farmers Mutual Exchange.

Second prize, heavy ham, won by S. F. Bullock, given by Peebles Dept. Store.

Second prize, medium ham, won by Nat Villines, given by Hugh Woods Store.

Third prize, light ham, won by W. B. Brooks, given by Mr. G. R. Clayton.

Third prize, shoulder, won by W. B. Brooks, given by Mr. S. B. Davis.

Third prize, middling, won by E. B. Brooks, given by Mr. A. D. Newton, Moriah.

Third prize, heavy ham, won by Alex McCain, given by Mr. F. D. Long.

Third prize, medium ham, won by L. D. Hayes, given by Roxboro Shoe Store.

Fourth prize, heavy ham, won by Starling Burton, given by the Western Auto Supply.

Fifth prize, heavy ham, won by Allie Clay, given by Oakley's service Station.

Other prizes won in the medium ham division were as follows:

Dallice Villines—given by Mr. S. B. Davis; Edmund Lee—given by D. C. Johnson Store; L. W. Brooks—given by Bumpass & Day; Luther Drumright—given by Longhurst Mercantile Company; Dallice Villines—given by Hall's Hardware; Jim Drumright—given by Chas. Holeman Company; Alex McCain—given by Goodfriend; Tom Oliver—given by Leggetts Dept. Store; L. D. Hayes—given by Mr. F. T. Whitfield; Festat Betts—given by Burns, Gentry & Strum; Tom Oliver—given by Ashley & Brooks, Timberlake; Robert Drumright—given by Farmers Supply Store; C. J. Jeffers—given by Roxboro Furniture Co.; Collins Pulliam—given by Mr. D. M. Cash; Henry Lyons—given by Economy Auto Supply; J. B. Drumright—given by Person Motor Co.; Collins Pulliam—given by Long & Bradsher; Mrs. R. B. Cameron—given by Mr. J. G. Chambers, Timberlake.

Greensboro, N. C., News
August 10, 1940

NEGRO FARMERS HOLD ANNUAL FIELD EVENT

Commissioner Scott Brings Main Address At Rocky Mount Gathering.

Approximately 1,200 negro farmers attended an annual field day at the upper coastal plain field station at Rocky Mount yesterday with the North Carolina department of agriculture, the experiment station and the United States department of agriculture co-operating in presentation of the affair. Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott made the main address of the day.

R. E. Currin, assistant director, was in charge.

During the morning about 500 of the farmers inspected cotton, tobacco and peanut experiments being carried on at the farm. At the same time women who were present met in a separate session to hear a lecture on how to make fly traps and an address on the winter feeding of a farm family by Mrs. Fannie T. Newsome, negro home demonstration agent of Northampton county.

The afternoon was given over to a joint meeting with Commissioner Scott making the feature talk.

J. W. Mitchell, negro state agent, from A. and T. college, presided as chairman during the afternoon. Several talks were made by agents from over the state. F. S. Spruill, Rocky Mount banker, preceded Mr. Scott's address with a discussion of race questions.

Greensboro, N. C., News
December 21, 1940

ACHIEVEMENT EVENT HELD IN ROCKINGHAM

Negro Farmers of County Hold Second Annual Event.

Greensboro Daily News Bureau
120½ Scales St., Telephone 714

REIDSVILLE, Dec. 20.—Rockingham county negro farmers held their second annual Achievement day program last night at Elm Grove church near this city with a large crowd of farmers, augmented by many interested business and professional people, in attendance. R. L. Hannon, negro farm agent for the county, was in charge of the program.

Farmers gave reports of projects which they are practicing and prizes were given for the best reports. Prize winners were Oscar Tucker, in the wheat growing contest, Thomas Settle, in the corn growing contest, and Eddie Graves, in the fat hog contest. Garfie Daniel, first and only negro farmer in Rockingham to get a tenant purchase loan from FSA, spoke on his plans for his new farm. Waddell Bell, leading 4-H club boy in the county, also spoke. Hannon outlined next year's plans.

White farm leaders contributed to the program. Fred S. Walker, Rockingham county farm agent, and R. Penn Moore, of the soil conservation service, Reidsville, spoke. Walker talked on the 1941 AAA program and Moore spoke on soil-saving work being carried on in this section.

IMPROVEMENT OF

Nashville, N. C. Graphic
December 5, 1940

NEW FARMERS MAKE CHRISTMAS DONATION

The New Farmers of America, is the name of the organization in the Negro schools which corresponds to the Future Farmers of America organization in the white schools. It is made up of boys who are taking agriculture courses in the high schools.

One of the most active chapters of this organization in the State is the one at the Nash County Training School. This year this group has made a substantial donation to the under-privileged of Nash county through the Nash County Welfare Department. This contribution consisted of salt, flour, white potatoes, collards, sweet potatoes, canned fruit, and beans. Appreciation for this gift was expressed by Mr. J. A. Glover, Welfare Superintendent, in a letter to Chancy Edwards, President of the local chapter of New Farmers of America.

Quitman, Ga., Free-Press
December 19, 1940

NFA Sponsors Spelling Contest

The Simmon Hill Chapter of NFA boys sponsored a "Spelling Contest" Friday night, December 13 in which all negro county schools were invited to participate. Each school was asked to bring two pupils to spell against two pupils from the Brooks County Training School. Aside from the spelling prizes, there was a prize given to the visiting school that had the largest number of persons present.

The winning contestants in the spelling were: first place, Virginia Owens, Simmon Hill; second place, Mary Wright, Pine Hill-Barwick; and third place, Geneva Bryant, Ham City.

The school that had the largest number of representatives present was the Grooverville school which had twenty-one persons present.

The first prize to the contestants was a Bible, the second prize was a dictionary, and the third prize was a book, "Little Women." The prize award to the Grooverville School was a painting of a beautiful sun-set and landscape.

The NFA boys of the Simmon Hill Chapter wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every individual that helped to make their program a success.

LESTER ALBERT IS HONORED AT NAT'L CONFAB

Awarded Gold Key, $75 In Competitive Trials At Pine Bluff, Ark.

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—Lester Albert, of Delray, Fla., past-president of the New Farmers of America, the largest farm boy organization in the world, was ranked as the outstanding superior farmer by the national organization during the National convention here last week.

In competition with other candidates who were raised from the modern farmer degree, Lester won first place on his outstanding accomplishments and was awarded a gold key by the national organization and also a cash award of $75, donated by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation.

Lester was unable to attend the national convention this year for the first time because he is now employed with a landscaping firm in Palm Beach county. This job is in line with Lester's training at the Delray county vocational training school and apparently offers possibilities. Prof. L. A. Marshall, state adviser, N.F.A., received the awards for Lester.

Prof. S. D. Spady, local adviser of the Delray chapter, N.F.A., is planning a banquet in honor of Lester at an early date, at which time the awards will be made to Lester by a representative of the national organization, N.F.A.

To reach the superior farmer degree, Lester has climbed gradually through the degrees of the New Farmers of America organization: the farm hand, improved farmer, modern farmer, and now the superior farmer.

To obtain the superior farmer degree, one must have a well-balanced farming program, which has to be built up over a period of several years. This farming program must be a successful one and in order to have success, improved practices must be followed.

New Farmers of America Elect A. and T. Youth

By J. ARCHIE HARGRAVES

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—James W. Warren, sophomore student in the school of agriculture at A. and T. College, Greensboro, N.C., was elected president of the New Farmers of America at the final session of the sixth national convention at Arkansas State College here, last week.

Other officers elected include Isaac Coogs of Oklahoma, first vice-president; Dempsey Dixon New Jersey, second vice-president; Birt Simpson, Georgia, third vice-president; Lawrence Reddick, Florida, secretary; Paul D. Vane, Virginia, treasurer; Hollis Stearn, Oklahoma, reporter; and J. R. Thomas of Virginia, advisor.

u Warren is the second North Carolinian to head the organization. In 1937, Elbert Pettiford of Spring Hope, N.C., a student at A. and T. College, was elected president. Warren is a native of Spring Hope.

"Best Farmer"

Winner of the title, "Ranking Superior Farmer for 1940" was Lester Albert of Delray Beach, Fla., for the best farm practice program. Ferdinand Holmes of Whitehaven, Tenn.; Avery Phifer of Clarkton, N. C.; Emmett George of Whiteville, N.C.; Norman Dodsen of Charlotte, Va.; Willard Mason of Dover, Okla.; and W. E. Martin of Jonesville, La., received superior farmer degrees.

Milton McCall of Morven Rosenwald School, Morven, Ga., won the public speaking contest. Second was Herman Gray of Eads, Tenn.; and third, Charles Sizemere of Clarksville, Va.

Louisianan was first in the quartet singing contest, with Georgia and North Carolina tied for second. Third place went to Florida, winner last year.

Individual Winner

Texas won the team judging contest. Individual honors went to Quinn Hughes of Arkansas.

The keynote address was delivered by President W. H. Bell, of Alcorn A. and M. College, Alcorn, Miss.

Site of the 1941 national convention was fixed at Florida A. and M. College, Tallahassee.

500 Attend Convention In Arkansas

Next Meeting Goes To Florida A. and M., Tallahassee

By J. ARCHIE HARGRAVES

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—James W. Warren, sophomore student in the school of agriculture at A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., was elected president of New Farmers of America at the final session of the sixth national convention of the organization at Arkansas State College here last week.

The election ended a four day meeting of the largest Negro youth organization in the world, which boasts of a total membership of over 25,000 students of vocational agriculture on the secondary school level representing 10 states. The 1941 meeting will be held at Florida A. and M. College, Tallahassee.

Approximately 500 delegates were in attendance at the convention which sponsored a h[illegible] activities including addr[illegible]ss by nationally known leaders in the field of agriculture, the national public speaking, quartet singing, and agricultural judging contests, special exhibits of the various state NFA associations, and the awarding of the superior farm degree, the H. O. Sargent trophy, and other honors peculiar to the organization.

Other national officers elected for the incoming year include Isaac Coggs, of Oklahoma, first vice president; Dempsey Dixon, of New Jersey, second vice-president; Birt Simpson, of Georgia, third vice president; Lawrence Reddick, of Florida, secretary; Paul D. Vane, of Virginia, treasurer; Hollis Stearn of Oklahoma, reporter; and J. R. Thomas, of Virginia, adviser.

BATTLE OVER BALLOT

At first the election returns were contested by Louisiana in a rather turbulent and stormy session. Louisiana contested the eligibility of vice presidential nominee, Birt Simpson, and wished to throw out the entire election on the grounds that his name was added to the ballot after it had already been drawn up without consent of the delegates. Louisiana's protest was voted down and the ballot result stood as previously ordered.

Warren is the second North Carolinian to capture the presidency of the organization. In 1937, Elbert Pettiford, of Spring Hope, N. C., and a student at A. and T. College was elected president. Likewise, Warren is a native of Spring Hope and has been attending A. and T. College two years. He achieved the superior degree in 1939 at Bordentown, N. J.

All of the officers were installed by F. A. Smith, director of vocational education for the state of Arkansas.

Winner of the coveted title "Ranking Superior Farmer for 1940" was Lester Albert, of Delray Beach, Florida, for the best farm practice program of any boy in the organization. Albert was national president in 1938. Six other members received superior farmer degrees, the highest that the organization offers. These were Ferdinand Holmes, of Whitehaven, Tenn.; Avery Phifer, of Clarkton, N. C.; Emmett George, of Whiteville, N. C.; Norman Dodson, of Charlottesville, Va.; Willard Mason, of Dover, Okla.; and W. E Martin, of Jonesville, La.

SARGENT WINNER

Robert Howard, of Riderwood, Ala., achieved distinction as being the first to receive the the H. O. Sargent award. This award was given by Mrs. Charles Milner, of Greensboro, N. C. in honor of her father, the late Dr. Sargent who was instrumental in founding the organization in 1928.

The award goes to that former NFA member established in farming on an independent basis with the best agricultural and community leadership program. Competing with Howard for this honor were O. F. Youngblood, of Delray Beach, Fla.; John Thornton Holmes, of Whitehaven, Tenn., and Napoleon Gallien, Jr., of Opelousas, La.

Howard was declared winner because of an intensive farming program carried on since high schoool graduation in 1937 on 47 acres of land yielding an annual net income of $1,465 per year.

Presenting the ranking superior farmer and H. O. Sargent awards was Cornelius King, assistant to the governor, Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C. Both awards were conferred in absentia.

CONTESTS

Three national contests, public speaking, quartet singing, and agricultural judging, were held in conjunction with the national convention. Milton McCall, of Morven Rosenwald school, Morven, Ga., emerged as winner of the public speaking contest. In second place was Herman Gray, of Eads, Tenn., and in third place was Charles Sizemore, of Clarksville, Va.

Louisiana was first place winner in the quartet singing contest, and Georgia and North Carolina tied for second. Third place went to Florida which was first place winner last year.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Texas captured honors as a team in the agricultural judging contest. Individual honors in this competition went to Quinn Hughes, of Arkansas. Rankings according to the different divisions of agricultural judging were as follows: mules, Robert Reid, of South Carolina; cows, John Douglass, of Alabama; hens, E. Brown, of Arkansas; gilts, Charlie Clark, of West Virginia; corn, Otis Evans, of Texas; potatoes, Charles Jones, of Texas.

The keynote address of the convention was delivered by President W. H. Bell, of Alcorn A. and M. College, Alcorn, Miss. Dr. Bell told the 500 convention delegates that the "kind of race and country we shall have twenty-five years from now depends upon the kind of men and women the youth determine in their hearts to be." Introducing Dr. Bell was President John B. Watson, of the local host college.

Official band for the convention was the Snow Hill Institute Band, of Snow Hill, Ala. Recreation was enjoyed in the John B. Watson, state park, near Pine Bluff.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
August 20, 1940

DELRAY NEGRO YOUTH GETS NATIONAL HONOR

The New Farmers of America, largest negro farm boy organization in the world, named Lester Albert, Delray Beach negro youth, as the outstanding superior farmer at the recent national convention in Pine Bluff, Ark., it was announced Monday at the school board office. Albert was formerly president of the organization.

Albert enrolled in the department of vocational agriculture in 1935, and carried out profitable truck crop projects for four years. He has won 33 public speaking contests, and was recently honored with a banquet at Delray Beach.

Greensboro, N. C., News
November 11, 1940

NEGRO AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE PLANNED

State Expected Send Leaders To Tuskegee For Course.

Negro vocational agriculture students are making plans to send leaders of the state association of New Farmers of America to the national leadership school which will be conducted at Tuskegee institute, Alabama, February 10-15.

President Lafoy Hayes, of the state association, has asked each local chapter of development means of raising funds with which to send the group to the Tuskegee leadership school. Additional funds secured will be used in developing a permanent camp for negro boys. The camp will be located in Guilford county.

The major purpose of the Tuskegee leadership school will be to provide special training in camp activities. Those attending this school will be expected to help train negro farm youth in their district and state association in activities given at Tuskegee.

The school will be under the direction of W. N. Elam, A. W. Ross both of the U. S. office of education, Washington, D. C.; J. R Thomas, national advisor, Petersburg, Va.; J. W. Warren, national president, A. and T. college, Greensboro; and S. B. Simmons, executive secretary, A. and T. college, Greensboro.

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
November 14, 1940

Negro Students Work For Agriculture Trip

The Henry Grove colored high school has a chapter of New Farmers of America, which is a branch of a national association of Negro boys studying vocational agriculture. They are now working, through the sale of leadership tickets, in an effort to send a representative to Tuskegee Institute to a national leadership school to be held next February 10-15. J. H. Rumph, teacher at Henry Grove, and Cable Diggs, president of the N. F. A. chapter, say that the cooperation of citizens will be appreciated, as numerous valuable prizes are to be given by the North Carolina association in addition to the possibility of earning a trip to the school at Tuskegee.

Butler, Ala., Advocate
November 21, 1940

CHOCTAW N. F. A.
BOY WINS AWARD

Dan Coleman, Reporter

Robert Howard of Riderwood, N. F. A. contestant for the national H. O. Sargent award, won national distinction by being the first recipient of the National H. O. Sargent award, an award made possible by Mrs. Charles Milner of Greensboro, N. C., commerating the life and work of her father, the late Dr. H. O. Sargent, founder of the National N. F. A. organization. This award carried a cash prize of $50. a bronze plaque and a certificate of merit.

Young men who had received four years vocational agriculture training and who since graduation had continued farming on an independent basis, were eligible for this award. There were contestants from seventeen states. These contestants had all followed similar plans of work, and they were all leaders in their respective communities. Howard was declared winner of this award because he had carried on since high school graduation the most intensive and independent farm program of any of the contestant of the competing states.

The cash ward and certificate of merit were presented to Howard at the local N. F. A. meeting, by Professor J. T. Banks, instructor in vocational Agriculture at the Choctaw County tarining School, Lisman, Ala. The school from which Howard graduated. The bronze plaque was presented at the regular chapel exercise of this institution, by Mr. A. Floyd, State Teacher trainer Tueskegee Institute, who was visiting the Choctaw County training at this time. In presenting the plaque Mr. Floyd spoke of the honors that had come to the state to the county to the community, and local chapter, through the successful efforts of Howard. He spoke of a similar honor that had come to us few years ago through the efforts of Green Berry Maye who for two years in succession was a member of the national N. F. A. judging team. Mr Floyd, commended Howard for his good work, and Professor Banks for his excellent leadership and guidance and the administration for its progressive and constructive program.

Howard has had other honors bestowed upon him since his graduation from high school and chief among these the degree of "Modern Farmer" at Tuskegee Institute last summer by the State N. F.A. Association.

It is the belief of the recipient of these honors and to the leadership of the state and school that these honors will serve as an inspiration to all Negro Youth.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

PLANT- TO-PROSPER ---LIVE-AT- HOME COMPETITIONS

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
April 29, 1940

PLANT-PROSPER ENTRY DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR

Competitors Must Be Enrolled By Midnight Wednesday

MANY PRIZES AVAILABLE

30,000 Families Are Already Entered In 1940 Contest To Improve Conditions On Their Farms

By WALTER DURHAM
Director, Plant-to-Prosper Bureau

MidSouth farmers who plan to participate in the 1940 Plant to Prosper and Live-at-Home Competitions but who have not yet enrolled should sign a registration blank immediately and send it to the county or home agent, Farm Security Administration supervisor or mail it to The Commercial Appeal. The deadline for entering the contest is midnight Wednesday.

Already more than 30,000 farm families of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri have enrolled and are competing for $3600 to be awarded to those who make the best record this year in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification, farm improvement and home management.

Winners' Prizes

The equivalent of a year's work for the average MidSouth farm family will be the value of the sweepstakes prize to be won by the 1940 Plant to Prosper champion. He will receive at least $600 in cash and a completely-equipped Allis-Chalmers tractor. He also will be given a Certificate of Merit, testifying to his ability as a farmer.

With hundreds of other county winners of the four states, he will be invited to attend the annual Mi[illegible]outh Farm Forum and Plant to [illegible]osper rally in Memphis in December.

Besides the grand sweepstakes prize of $500 cash and the tenant or sharecropper sweepstakes prize of $250 cash, there are numerous other cash prizes.

Other Awards

These prizes include $100 for the best landowner and the best tenant or sharecropper in each state; $75 for the second best, and $50 for the third best in each division—landowner and tenant or sharecropper—in each state. This makes a total of $450 cash to be awarded farmers in each state.

In the Live-at-Home Competition for negro farmers, the first prize in each state will be $50 for the landowner and the tenant; $25 for second; $15 for third, and $10 for fourth. These prizes are in addition to the $250 sweepstakes prize to be awarded the negro farmer who makes the best record in the competition.

Tenant or sharecropper families in the Plant to Prosper Contest also are eligible to win a total of $200 for improving their home surroundings. The sweepstakes prize is $100, and there will be cash prizes of $25 each to the winners in each of the four states included in the contest.

Possible Winnings

Thus it is possible for a tenant or sharecropper to win a total of $500 grand sweepstakes, $250 tenant sweepstakes, a tractor and $120 in home improvement, or total prizes valued at $1775.

Besides the cash awards made by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, a number of counties have local contests and will present county winners with cash prizes and merchandise and a free trip tothe annual Plant to Prosper rally.

Kingstree, S. C., Record
December 12, 1940

USE SHARE BASIS FOR LIVE-AT-HOME CROPS

Production of all food and feed crops on a share basis, the same as with cash crops, is an important plank in the agreements with tenants on the farms of James W. Hicks, Lee County farmer.

"Under the tenancy system practiced on South Carolina farms, the Negro sharecropper traditionally expects the landowner to furnish him subsistence and clothing, and as long as this feeling exists it is hard to encourage these persons to produce their needed foods", says Mr. Hicks.

"Realizing the importance of home production of foods needed by sharecroppers, I develop my farm plans to include the production of necessary foods. My croppers are required to have gardens, wheat, potatoes, watermelons, peas, and corn for food purposes. They grow corn and their feeds for poultry, hogs, and milk cows. All of the families have chickens and hogs and about one-half of them have milk cows.

"The production of more food products cuts down credit advances for food purposes", Mr. Hicks declares. "This practice reduces my risk in crop production and provides better diets to cropper families. Adequate diets are essential for good health which is necessary before croppers can properly perform their work."

"The arrangement whereby Mr. Hicks encourages croppers to grow their foods is significant, thinks M. C. Rochester, farm management specialist of the Clemson College extension service. In the first place, all garden products, potatoes, watermelons, peas, wheat, and corn are produced on a 50-50 basis. Mr. Hicks extends supervision to all food crops just the same as to cash and feed crops. On this share basis Mr. Hicks feels free to supervise food and feed production, and under this arrangement the crops are certain to be worked and cared for.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
December 24, 1940

Use Share Basis For Live-At-Home Crops.

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Besides providing cropper families an oportunity for producing wheat for flour, Mr. Hicks follows a plan worked out by the local wheat millers and farmers whereby the cropper's wheat is turned over to the miller and credited to the cropper's account. The flour is released to the tenant only on order from the landowner, which discourages any tendency of croppers to dispose of their wheat and insures their using the flour for food purposes.

Abbeville S. C. Press and Banner
December 26, 1940

Use Share Basis for Live-at-Home Crop

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Louisville, Miss. Journal
December 13. 1940

NEGRO PLANT TO PROSPER WINNERS

On Thursday, December 5th, a Committee composed of the following, Mr. T. T. Giffin, F. S. A. Director of Winston County, Miss Gertrude Dacus, F. S. A. Home Management Supervisor, Mrs. Carrie N. Herring, County Home Demonstration Agent, Mr. R. R. Herring of the Soil Conservation District, and M. E. Dean, Negro County Farm Agent, spent one half a day visiting the Plant to Prosper farms and homes of the colored families enrolled that kept a record and turned it in to Mr. L. C. Murphree's office.

According to Dean's records there were 41 families enrolled in the landowner and tenant divisions among the colored, yet only seven (7) of these turned in record books, which as you were all foretold, you ha dto keep and turn in to the County Agents Office to be eligible for a prize.

We, the Committee feel sure more of the 41 families made fine efforts towards living at home. You more than likely have improved your home life, but where is the Record?

The business houses of the town are to be highly thanked for the special efforts put forth in making this contest possible.

In announcing the Winners in the Landowners division, we wish to first in our unable way compliment the Winners for their efforts; these compliments are for all who tried also, but were not winners. We say TRIED for in our inspection we found some that in our way of thinking have done very little.

Winners among the Landowners were Vol and Minnie Austin, 1st prize — $30.00; Tolly Johnson and Mamie Johnson, 2nd prize, $15.00, and Andrew and Roxie Ball, 3rd prize of $10.00. The Austin family lives in Greensboro Community, the Johnsons live on Academy Street, Louisville and the Balls live in Hopewell Community.

Only two (2) Record books in the tenant division would justify our visiting their places and upon doing so, the Committee did not find much work done, and recommended that the prize money be withheld until 1941, when we hope tenants will do more and thereby deserve the fine prizes that will be awarded.

Later more will be said about the Winners and the contest. I truly believe every colored landowner and tenant should enroll and then do something on his place after doing so.

Again, we want to thank the Business Men for their interest and I want to thank the others of the Committee for their services in deciding the winners.

Reported by: M. E. DEAN.

Bolivar, Tenn., Bulletin
December 13. 1940

Hardeman County Negroes Again Cash Winners In Live-At-Home Competition

In the third annual Live-At-Home competition rally and dinner held in Memphis last week, Ed Matthews, Route 4, Bolivar, was awarded $50.00 in the Landowner Division, with Waymon Nelson, Route 2, Prospect, $25.00, and Joe Harris, Route 1, Bolivar, $15.00.

Much credit for the above is due County Negro Agent, E. R. Shockley, and Emma Person, Home Demonstration Agent, for such a fine record.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
March 17, 1940

The Legacy of National Debt

The News and Courier has great pleasure in printing reports of farmers, especially small farmers, who are independent, who are "getting ahead of the world". The story of the success of a negro farmer in Clarendon carries an excellent lesson. The man is a landowner. He has sixty laying hens. He has good livestock, has purchased an Angus bull. He learns all that is to had from the agricultural agents. He is diligent. He is provid nt. His children belong to 4-H clubs. The man has initiative. He is not looking to government for relief.

In South Carolina are thousands of farmers who produce on their lands nearly all that their families consume.

In South Carolina are 6,000,000 or 8.000.000 acres not cultivated that initiative, diligence, industry would make productive. The independent farmers are the sterling citizenry, a great part of it. They are not rich. They pay their debts. Their sense of obligation is not blunted.

When The News and Courier reflects that in the last seven years the debt of these farmers, their share of the national debt, has been more than doubled, that the debt rather than the wealth of the Americans has been distributed, The News and Courier is discouraged.

How many South Carolinians wish the distribution of debt to be continued? How many would vote to increase the legacy of debt to their sons and daughters?

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
March 17, 1940

Negro Farmer in Clarendon Goes from Tenant to Owner

Manning, March 16.—Special: Nine years ago Henry Blanding, negro farmer, of Route 3, Manning, was ploying an ox, and living in a dilapidated makeshift house on rented land. He was in 1931 an ordinary tenant with no capital and a low income.

Henry Blanding is now the owner-operator of a forty-two-acre farm on which he has built a comfortable home and has replaced his oxen with a pair of strong young mules. A well balanced crops and livestock program formed the basis for Blanding's feat of purchasing a farm during a time in which many of the better farmers found it difficult to even hold their own.

Muc hof the credit for his success is due to the work of William Thompson, negro agricultural agent, who made regular visits to the farm and helped him make out his farming program. The program has shown gradual but continual improvement from year to year. At first the attention was given to soil improvement crops and practices.

All of the land on his farm was drained well, lime used where needed, leguminous crops were planted and ployed under and all the barnyard manure was carefully returned to the land. That these practices paid is indicated by his 1939 production records which show that he produced more than two bales of cotton to the acre on a five-acre demonstration with corn yields proportionately high. Ordinarily, however, the bulk of his income is derived from the sale of livestock.

Hog production is Blanding's specialty. In 1937 he was able to pay cash for two mules through the sale of his hogs and a few vegetables, and in 1938 his income from hogs alone amounted to $1,257. His income from hogs in 1939 fell to $826 due largel yto lower hog prices.

In a recent interview with Blanding, he praised the services of the farm market bureau of Clarendon county, which is a non-profit organization through which he markets much of his produce and he also purchases some of his farm supplies through the same organization. He said that a flock of sixty laying hens take care of many of his household expenditures in addition to keeping his table amply supplied with poultry products. He also sells some years as much as $300 worth of vegetables, from his market garden.

Recently Blanding added an Angus bull to his herd to increase the market value of his surplus cattle. He has enclosed nineteen acres of his land in hog-tight fence for grazing purposes. This simplifies his feeding problem inasmuch as it enables his stock to graze on soy beans, corn, velvet beans and cowpeas in the summer and small grain during the winter. This has enabled him to not only feed his livestock cheaply but to build his soil to a high state of production.

He is active in community affairs and the work of the church. In the Missionary Baptist church he is superintendent of the Sunday school. All of his children are 4-H members.

Winnsboro, S. C. News & Herald
April 18, 1940

NEGRO FARMER SETS EXAMPLE

Ned Coleman, And Family Of 15, Lives Comfortably Because He Practices Diversification.

Ned Coleman, Negro, who is a 3-horse share-cropper on the place of Mr. J. O. Coleman, near Feasterville, is setting an example in intelligent, diversified farming that other Fairfield farmers might follow with profit.

Ned, who has successfully raised a family of fifteen, averages about 25 bales of cotton per year. He makes sufficient wheat to furnish flour the year around, and the corn he raises supplies all of the meal and grits needed. He kills from 7 to 10 large hogs every year and therefore has to buy neither meat nor lard, and his three good grade Guernsey milk cows supply him with a quantity of milk, butter and other dairy products. Ned refused an offer of $100 for one of these cows.

Last week he sold 4 hogs which netted him $54.57.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
March 19, 1940

Negro Farmer In Clarendon Goes From Tenant To Owner

MANNING, March 19—Nine years ago Henry Blanding, negro farmer of Route 3, Manning was plowing an ox and living in a dilapidated makeshift house on rented land. He was in 1931 an ordinary tenant with no capital and a low income.

Henry Blanding is now the owner-operator of a forty-two-acre farm on which he has built a comfortable home and has replaced his oxen with a pair of strong young mules. A well balanced crops and livestock program formed the basis for Blanding's feat of purchasing a farm during a time in which may of the better farmers found it difficult to even hold their own.

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Columbia, S. C. State
July 28, 1940

Tobacco Sorting Demonstrations Near Timmonsville

Timmonsville, July 27.—George W. Jones of the U. S. department of agriculture marketing bureau will be in the Timmonsville area Monday and Tuesday July 29 and 30 conducting demonstrations, in cooperation with the high school vocational department, in sorting, handling and marketing tobacco. Since this service is available for only two days the following meetings have been arranged. Growers are asked to note the schedule and attend the one most convenient. Monday July 29 for white growers: 10 a. m., Lake Swamp section at Cecil Sansbury's farm; 2 p. m., Center section, S. L. Walkup's farm; 4 p. m., Morris-Catersville section at O. S. Derham's store. Any Negro farmers who find this schedule most convenient may also attende.

Tuesday July 30, schedule for Negro farmers: 9:30 a. m. at the Rev. Robert Brown's barn on the Dowling farm; 2 p. m., Gethro Green's farm on the Sardis road; 4 p. m., John Brown's barn on the Cartersville road.

Marion, S. C. Star
July 31, 1940

Negro Farmers To Visit Coker's Farm

Plans have been arranged for farmers to visit Coker's Farm, Hartsville, S. C., on August 8. 1940. All farmers who would like to go on this trip make your plans and arrangements now.

Plan to meet me at my office at 8:20 a. m. Thursday morning August 8, so we will be able to leave in a group. The tour of the farm will start at 10:00 a. m.

This trip will be of a recreational value as well as educational. Farmers should spend a little time visiting up-to-date farms, experiment stations, and demonstrations. The farmer who does is in the lead and is making progress. You due it to yourself to take a few days out a year to develop along the lines of farmers.

We hope many of the farmers are planning to go with us on the

Negro Opportunity Farm In County Proposed By Urban League Of City

Greenville, S. C. News
August 7, 1940

A proposal for the establishment of a negro county opportunity farm on about 30 acres of land near Mauldin was presented yesterday to candidates for the house of representatives and state senate from Greenville county by the Urban League of Greenville through Chairman John A. McPherson.

The proposal calls for the spending of about $3,500 for the purchase of the land on which negroes of Greenville county would be taught advanced farming, domestic service and vocational pursuits and which would provide for them a recreational center where instruction in health measures would be made available.

The Urban league is made up of prominent negro citizens of Greenville who work with the cooperation of prominent white citizens such as Mr. McPherson. Cooperating in sponsoring the proposed opportunity farm are the Greenville County Council for Community Development, the Greenville County Council of Social Agencies, the city Park and Tree commission, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greenville (negro), the Phillis Wheatley association (negro) and the Junior Charities.

Cooperation of candidates for the general assembly in this county was solicited in letters over the name of Mr. McPherson.

INTRODUCTION

The leading negro citizens of Greenville county have long realized the need of some conveniently located development where the adult negroes of this county would have the opportunity to receive needed training and leadership, particularly in the vocations, that would tend to make them more useful citizens. Particularly has this need been apparent in the plight of the negro tenant farmer whose opportunities for learning and improving his knowledge of agriculture are greatly limited. The opportunities for the negro to receive training in other vocations are equally ignored. The citizens of this county do not have to be reminded, for example, of the great need of the negroes for an opportunity to be trained for domestic service.

In view of this great need, these negro citizens have appealed to their white friends to aid the plight of the negro and thereby render a service to the county by establishing what might be called a county opportunity farm. This farm would be established in a conveniently located area, and would serve, not only as a vocational training center for the negroes, but would become a recreational and cultural center as well where the negroes would find leadership and guidance in their struggle to improve themselves as useful citizens of our community.

PURPOSE

A. ADVANCED FARMING

One of the purposes of this farm would be to provide a place where the latest improvements in agriculture could be demonstrated to the negro farmers. Since this area would be reserved exclusively for negroes the negro farmer would feel no hesitancy in coming to such a development to study and receive advice and aid concerning his agricultural problems.

B. DOMESTIC SERVICE

One of the great needs of the negroes of this community is an opportunity to receive training for domestic service. If this farm is established, classes in domestic service would be available to the negroes of this county. Not only would this be an advantage to the negroes, but such classes would be invaluable to the citizens of this county who employ domestic servants.

C. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

This farm would also provide classes in such vocations as carpentry, brick-masonry, etc. These classes would so train the negro as to provide him an opportunity for increasing his standard of living.

D. RECREATIONAL CENTER

This farm would also serve as a recreational center for the negroes of this community; athletic fields would be constructed. It would afford a location for the negroes to have picnics, outings, etc., under supervision of the staff of the project.

E. HEALTH CLASSES

Classes would also be available for the negroes in the study of health. It is felt that by attending these classes the negroes would be better informed in their struggle to eradicate the devastating diseases that are now so prevalent among them.

ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECT

The farm would be administered by a board elected by the Greenville county delegation. This board would consist of the senator, one member of the Greenville delegation, one member of the Urban league, one member from Phillis Wheatley, chairman of the Park and Tree commission, the county farm agent and one colored, Smith-Hughes teacher.

After the project is completed, the activities will be carried on at no expense to the county. The NYA has already assured those interested in the project that they will furnish certain teachers. The WPA would furnish certain teachers. Volunteer teachers of the various organizations interested in the problems of the negroes would, however, furnish a sufficient number of teachers to carry on this project regardless of any assistance from NYA and WPA.

CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT

The plan for the farm makes necessary an appropriation by the county to purchase the land where the county farm would be established. This appropriation will not exceed $3,500. After the land is purchased the CCC and WPA will assist in the construction of the project. Furthermore, the negroes themselves have volunteered to do the necessary work in grading and erecting the necessary buildings.

PROPOSED SITE OF PROJECT

The site of the project will be selected by the administrative board. However, the citizens interested in this farm have made a very careful investigation of a proposed site as to its location, costs, etc., and would earnestly recommend to the delegation and to the board that this proposed site be selected as the location for the county opportunity farm.

THE PROPOSED SITE

The proposed site is located on the right hand side of the Laurens road, United States highway No. 276, about five miles from the city limits of Greenville. It is in the Mauldin 5-B school district. The land proposed for purchase totals 34 acres more or less. It is in three tracts; all three tracts are available. There are approximately 600 feet of highway frontage; 14 acres of woodland; hills and valleys, a bold spring, rocks, two small houses, two wells, and approximately 15 acres of cultivable land. The land surrounds the school and church property. The proximity of the site to the Laurel Creek colored school is a most desirable feature as the facilities of this project and the school would make possible cooperation and economy in the attempt to carry on the work of both school and the opportunity farm.

Some of the major reasons this site is proposed are:

1. It is in the center of the negro population of the county.
2. It is only five miles from the city limits of the city of Greenville, and is easily accessible to all people of the county.
3. The community is one of the most prosperous and stable negro communities of the county. This fact is well substantiated by the "Socio-Economic Studies of Recreational Needs of Greenville County" made by Mr. R. D. Bailey in 1936.
4. The development already under way at the school when completed will make the school an ideal place for a county demonstration school.

In submitting this request to the county delegation, their attention is respectively called to the fact that the 1930 population of Greenville county shows that it contains approximately 27,000 negroes, which is about 25 per cent of the total population.

The sponsors of the project believe that this modest request for aid to improve the welfare of the negroes is worthy and that they are entitled to this aid.

Options for three tracts of land required for this project have been obtained. Option prices have been used in estimating the cost of the real estate and may possibly be reduced through negotiations with the owners.

Respectfully submitted,
GREENVILLE URBAN LEAGUE AND ASSOCIATED SOCIAL AGENCIES OF GREENVILLE COUNTY, S. C.

This Better Farm Living

OCT 3 1940

The Better Farm Living campaign, now being carried forward in South Carolina, has been more carefully planned than any of its many predecessors. This time workers of the extension service got specific data first, then began to suggest improvements in farm patterns. In previous "drives" the general idea of diversification has been presented so often that all hands, farmers, county agents and newspaper editors alike, sometimes were bored by the endless, too general but not too fruitful repetitions.

Farmers were urged to diversify, but were offered no definite plans. Some of them tried it out anyway, and the results often were disappointing. The yield of the new crops was not satisfactory, or markets were lacking, or something.

Adventure

That was before the soil of every cultivated field in South Carolina had been analyzed. That was before definitive studies had been made in home requirements of representative families. That was before the demand for cotton and for tobacco began to fall.

Now the soil of every field has been analyzed, and South Carolina's farmers know which are acid and which are not, which will produce vegetables, grasses, small grains, and so on. Now the needs of representative families have been studied, and a county agent or other worker can, therefore, tell a farmer how many tomato plants will give him enough tomatoes, what kind and how many sweet potato slips to buy, how many hens he should have to supply his family with eggs, and other such information. Live-at-home preachment has ceased to be a random broadcast of a general idea.

Montgomery

Another advantage of the new campaign is that it has definite objectives not beyond attainment by every farmer. There will be no drive to do everything at once. Farmers will be told by community volunteer workers what the community deficiencies are, and will be urged by these same neighbors to make up crop deficits at a reasonable rate of progress. These reasonable objectives will help win results. Men work much more readily toward specific, reasonable objectives than toward a general goal.

Richland

The Richland County program is illustrative of the work in every county in South Carolina. A study of 1,541 farms in Richland showed many deficiencies—not enough corn, wheat, vegetables, cows, chickens and the like. But the farmers who do not produce all they might will not be overwhelmed with numerous objectives. "At first," says County Agent David R. Hopkins, "we are making a determined effort on only two of the eight items listed in our study, namely the growing of wheat and the growing of Winter gardens. Each deficient farmer will be asked to sign a pledge card agreeing to plant at least one to three acres of wheat and have turnips, collards and cabbage patches. The volunteer workers in each community will be asked later to make a report as to the actual acreage planted to wheat and Winter vegetables. We were very much surprised to find so large a percentage of our farmers who are not already producing at least 50 per cent of their food and feed requirements."

OCT *3 1940

But the most powerful of all the new factors in the new Better Farm Living campaign is necessity. South Carolina has been a producer of export crops—cotton and tobacco. Disappearance of large segments of the export demand makes it necessary that we of this State look to other corps. This necessity, plus intelligent planning, almost certainly will guide us toward more agreeable rural living, more secure rural living that is not dependent wholly on money income. Real income, consumable income, eatable income, is not subject to the hazards of money income. —The Columbia State.

Greenwood S. C. Index Journal
October 13, 1940

96 Negro Farmers Attend Meetings For Better Farm Living

To The Index-Journal:

Six meetings were conducted in different townships in relation to the Better Farm Living Program, with 96 farmers attending and cooperating.

All farmers are asked to help to get this program to the farmer that has not been reached by the extension agents. This program is a strong brace in the home and national defense from a food and feed standpoint. Without food and feed we can not get very much done.

The following farmers pledged to help this program by being a community worker: Tom Dean, Julian Dean, John Syrkett, John Davis, James Brown and Elix Goode, of Fellowship; H. L. Quarles and Fed Robinson of Brooks; Eddie Hampton, Earl Nicholson, Robert Peterson, Willie Williams and J. H. Kemp of Kirksey; Robert C. Calhoun, D. H. Ligon, Robert Bradley, Robert Puckett, James Humphry and Henry Morgan of Coronaca and Henry White of Callison townships.

Small Grain and Winter Cover Crops

Do not forget about treating your small grains against smut before planting. Also inoculate your winter cover crop seeds before you plant in order to expect a better stand. Your Austrian winter peas should be planted as early as you can to get a good growth in the spring.

Yours for better farm living,
L. V. WALKER,
Negro Agricultural Leader.

Inman, S. C., Times
December 13, 1940

Use Share Basis for Live-at-Home Crops

Production of all food and feed crops on a share basis, the same as with cash crops, is an important plank in the agreements with tenants on the farms of James W. Hicks, Lee county farmer.

"Under the tenancy system practiced on South Carolina farms, the Negro share-cropper traditionally expects the landowner to furnish him subsistence and clothing, and as long as this feeling exists it is hard to encourage these persons to produce their needed foods", says Mr. Hicks.

"Realizing the importance of foods needed by sharecroppers, I develop my farm plans to include the production of necessary foods. My croppers are required to have gardens, wheat, potatoes, watermelons, peas, and corn for food purposes. They grow corn and other feeds for poultry, hogs, and milk cows. All of the families have chickens and hogs and one-half of them have milk cows.

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser
December 18, 1940

50,000 MATTRESSES MADE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Mattress making by and for low-income rural families goes steadily forward with 50,549 mattresses completed to date, reports Miss Lonny I Landrum, state home demonstration agent in charge of the program. Of this total, 31,909 mattresses were made for Negro families and 18,640 for white families.

Cotton and ticking are furnished by the Surplus Commodities Corporation through the AAA and the work is being done under Extension Service leadership. Already nearly 8,000 bales of cotton and nearly 600 bales of ticking have been used, Miss Landrum says. Last week mattress making work was being carried on in 45 community centers located over the state, with 142 volunteer leaders assisting.

The number of families so far certified to receive mattresses is 75,087, so the present program is two-thirds completed.

Sumter, S. C., Herald
December 5, 1940

50,000 Mattresses Made For Low Income Families

Rock Hill, Dec. 3.—Matteress making by and for low-income rural families goes steadily forward with 50,-19 mattresses completed to date, reports Miss Lenny Landrum, state home demonstration agent in charge of the program. Of this total, 31,909 mattresses were made for Negro families and 18,40 for white families.

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The number of families so far certified to receive mattresses is 75,807, so the present program is two-thirds completed.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
November 28. 1940

FARM NEWS

Balanced Farms Pay Best, Records Prove.

Clemson.—That balanced farming pays best was found to be true on 123 general-type farms in South Carolina on which complete farm account records were kept last year says Dudley C. Sturgis, assistant extension economist.

A balanced farm, Mr. Sturgis explains, is one that fully utilizes the resources of the farm. It gives productive work to the labor on the farm during all seasons of the year, and uses the land to best advantage. Such a farm usually has several important sources of income—including several kinds of livestock and poultry, and usually plants its government allotments in cash crops and the remaining crop land in grains, hays, silage, and grazing crops to be utilized by the livestock.

To illustrate the importance of having a balanced farm, Mr. Sturgis compares three Piedmont farms of about the same size. Farm A, 156 acres of cultivated land, had a labor income loss of $114; Farm B, 155 acres, a labor income gain of $933; Farm C, 165 acres, a labor income gain of $2,416. The labor income of a farm equals its receipts minus expenses and four per cent interest on the farm investment. Hence, labor income is what the farm operator gets for his year of work and management.

Farm A, which lost $114, had several serious weaknesses. It had practically no livestock; it had low crop yields, only 86 per cent of the state average yields; it depended on cotton for income.

Farm B, which gained $933, made the highest crop yields of the three farms. This farm had considerable livestock. Its weakness was that it had too many hogs in proportion to its cattle and poultry. During the year low prices and disease hurt the hog income. While this may be attributed to hard luck, it still remains that the farm's income would not have suffered so seriously had it not been "top heavy" in hogs.

Farm C, which made a gain of $2,416, is a well balanced farm. Crop yields, while above state average, were below those of Farm B. The even balance of this farm more than offset its low crop yields. This farm had 13 milk cows, from which was sold $845 worth of fresh cream. Skimmilk was fed to 390 hens from which was sold $1,374 worth of poultry and eggs. The farm also had 13 other cattle and 11 hogs from which a small income was derived in addition to products used at home. Receipts for this balanced farm showed 1 per cent from hogs, 3 per cent from cattle, 17 per cent from dairy products, 27 per cent from poultry products, and 38 per cent from cotton.

Farm News Bright Spots.

Cash From Sweet Potatoes

Chester.—The pedigreed sweet potato seed stock brought in from Lee county by five Chester county farmers last spring bids fair to boost this industry to a point where farmers of the Lowrys and adjoining communities may expect a considerable amount of additional farm income. "This year new growers have been added, curing houses have been built the quality has improved, and the price is very favorable," says County Agent M. C. Crain. "For example, M. O. Atkinson, of Lowrys secured 20 bushels of seed stock from Lee county. He constructed a fire-heated hotbed, built a sweet potato house, and planted his crop on land suited to sweet potatoes. He is harvesting a very fine crop of potatoes, probably 80 per cent of which are No. 1's."

Better Corn Yields

Florence.—Early last spring the Florence Kiwanis Club purchased 15 bushels of seed corn which was distributed to 4-H club boys and the farmers in the county with the understanding that the seed be planted on good soil far enough from other varieties to prevent undue mixing and fertilized and cultivated according to the recommendation of the Extension Service. "Even with the severe summer drouth suffered by most of the county the 104 club members and farmers participating produced an average yield of 45.4 bushels per acre," says J. C. King, assistant county agent. "Another interesting feature of the contest is that the yellow variety used produced a higher per acre yield and the ears were much more uniform and well filled on ends."

More Livestock In Union

Union.—The Union County Livestock Show was held in October with about the same showing of mares and colts as in 1939, more beef cattle and hogs, and less dairy cattle and poultry. "This show is evidence that the work we have done over a period of years toward pasture improvement and cattle production, especially on otherwise worthless bottom land, is having its effect," says County Agent T. B. Lee. "Another indication that our work has counted is found in the AAA-Extension survey conducted last summer. This survey showed only 6.7 per cent of our farms without poultry as compared with 10.4 per cent according to the 1935 census, and only 10.7 per cent of the farms without hogs as compared with 31.9 per cent in 1935."

Flashes From Afield.

The peanut acreage for 1940 was greatly increased over 1939 and farmers generally made good yields. With good weather farmers have produced the best peanut hay I have seen.—F. W. Corley, Aiken.

Orders for lime have been heavy this year, 1080 tons having been ordered the last few days of October to take up unused soil building allowance.—W. H. Pressly, Allendale.

Crotalaria has dotted many farms in the county and has been one of our prettiest crops during October. The acreage has more than doubled that of last year.—W. H. Craven, Bamberg.

To earn their full AAA payments for 1940 farmers have ordered 10 cars of lime and more than 3 tons of Austrian peas cooperatively in October.—D. A. Shelley, Barnwell.

One phase of the better farm living program has been the placing of milking Shorthorn bulls and heifers. Four bulls and two heifers have been placed with small farmers.—C. W. Carraway, Charleston.

Many Cherokee farmers are finding turkeys their most profitable market for surplus grains, and the number of turkeys in the county has shown a decided increase over last year.—Boyce Miller, Jr., Cherokee.

The Chesterfield Ice and Fuel Company has built a meat curing room, on advice of the county agents, and the plant was opened for business October 30.—J. McK. Jeter, Chesterfield.

Farmers are beginning to realize that there is a place on most farms for a few beef cattle. Recently we placed 25 high grade Hereford heifers with farmers.—F. M. Rast, Clarendon.

Twenty-three of the 59 corn contestants planted white corn and made an average of 42.4 bushels per acre. The 36 planting yellow corn made 39.1 bushels per acre.—S. W. Epps, Dillon.

Dorchester county made a great step forward when, through the cooperation of the State Forestry Service and the local county delegation, a fire protection unit was organized.—J. M. Lewis, Dorchester.

As a part of the better farm living program many farmers are planning to establish permanent pastures, which will be of great value in further promoting livestock.—M. M. McCord, Georgetown.

In cooperation with the Negro county agent and the Balentine Packing Company we have recently placed 12 purebred Berkshire gilts with selected Negro farmers of the county.—W. R. Gray, Greenville.

The increased planting of small grain and greatly increased number of turnip and mustard patches are evidence that the people are responding to the farm live-at-home appeal.—J. C. Anthony, Hampton.

A large part of the pulpwood being cut is being marked and selectively cut, and the recent tour should help landowners become more timber conservation minded.—J. C. Shelley, Horry.

Highest Egg Profits In Fall And Winter.

Clemson.—The egg production secured during fall and winter is probably the most important factor determining the year's profits from the poultry flock, according to J. W. Matthews, assistant extension poultryman.

Since fall and winter are not the normal seasons for egg production it is usually more difficult and costly to obtain high production at that time. However, the relative profitableness of good egg production at this period of the year is well known.

"For good fall and winter production," Matthews says, "some planning in advance is necessary. Well bred stock and reasonable management, including the use of lights, are usually sufficient.

"Only the breeder, breeder-hatchery or hatchery using pedigreed males identified under the National Poultry Improvement Plan as U. S. Certified are in position to supply stock with proven production back of it."

Greenville S C News
November 17, 1940

200 Attend Meeting Of Negro Farm Body

Alexander And Miss Hunter Speak At Session At Woodville

About 200 attended a meeting of the Piedmont Negro Farmers' Improvement association with the Woodville chapter as host Thursday.

Group discussions on the following subjects were held: "Wise Spending," "More Than One Pay Day," and "Land Care."

At a general meeting later, E. R. Alexander, district supervisor of vocational agriculture, and Miss Jessie Hunter, supervisor of home economics, spoke. In the contest on the 10-point program, prizes were awarded as follows: Chapman Grove, first; Simpsonville and Fountain Inn, tied for second, and Reedy Grove, third.

HOGS FOR NEGRO FARMERS

Greenville, W. R. Gray—In cooperation with the negro county agent and the Balentine Packing company we have recently placed 12 purebred Berkshire gilts with selected negro farmers of the county. Eight more gilts and two boars will be placed in the near future.

District Agent L. B. Massey and I visited the Oak Grove gin operated by M. G. Verdin on October 16. This is a one-variety cotton community and this gin is co-operating. A check on the reports received by Mr. Verdin show that a very high percentage of the cotton was graded middling or better with a staple from 1 to 1 1-16 inches. According to Mr. Verdin, the farmers in the community are greatly pleased with the organization and service that they are receiving.

Bishopville S C News
December 1, 1940

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
July 28, 1940

INSPECT STATE FARM

ATHENS, Ala., July 27—(Spl)—More than 100 Negro farmers from Madison and Jackson counties made an inspection tour of the state experimental farm near Belle Mina in this county Friday, accompanied by W. T. Gravitt, Negro farm agent of the two counties.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
September 12, 1940

JUDGES, CLASSES IN FAIR ANNOUNCED

Mrs. Atwood Makes Public Schedule—Dairy Cattle to Be Judged Thursday

Judges and the classes in which competition takes place at the Chattanooga Interstate fair next week, were announced yesterday by Mrs. A. T. Atwood, executive secretary.

It was also announced that a number of concessions have been disposed of and that from advance information all available space will be taken by the time the fair opens Monday.

Dairy cattle will be judged next Thursday, with C. E. Wylie in charge. Beef cattle, swine and poultry will be judged Tuesday, with J. R. Robinson and A. J. Chadwell in charge. Rabbits, entered by the Chattanooga Rabbit association, will also be judged Tuesday, A. J. Jensen and F. W. Severence being in charge.

C. E. Murphy, of Atlanta, will judge pigeons on the opening day of the fair, and agriculture will also be judged that day by L. R. Neal. Women's sewing and canning will be judged Saturday, in advance of the opening of the fair, with Mrs. Walter Owenby and Mrs. Janie Shropshire in charge. The Girls' 4-H clubs' sewing exhibits will be in charge of Mrs. Joe Clift and Mrs. Fred Johnson, and these exhibits will be judged tomorrow.

Girls' cooking and women's cooking will be judged Tuesday, with Miss Maude Guthrie, of the University of Tennessee, being the judge. Women's canning and sewing will be judged by Miss Margaret Weeks.

The art exhibit, under the direction of Frank Baisden, will be judged Sunday night at 8 o'clock, and at the same time the photography and crafts will be judged. Judges in these classes have not been announced.

Flowers will be judged Monday morning at 9:45 o'clock and 4-H girls' activities will be judged Tuesday by Miss Guthrie. The district 4-H club activities will be judged Saturday by Miss Omo Worley. Exhibits in the Negro department will be judged tomorrow by Mrs. Mercer Clementson and Miss M. Taylor.

The Future Farmers of America agriculture and shop show will be judged by R. E. Hendrix Monday, and horticulture will also be judged at that time by Arthur Meyer.

The 4-H club dress revue will be held Tuesday, with Miss Carolyn Baldwin and Miss Leah Parker in charge. Girls' canning exhibits will be judged tomorrow, with Mrs. Jerry Sanders in charge.

Clarksville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
October 22, 1940

Negro Winners Are Announced, Records Good

In the Negro Live-at-Home competition, Edward Quarles, landowner of Oak Grove, and Dovie Gilmer of District 4 were selected as best in the landowner and tenant divisions, respectively. Both were 1939 winners, and produced better records this year than last.

In this group, competition was close, as several other Negro farmers produced excellent records, according to J. R. Branham, Negro county agent.

Quarles, who was named a state winner in the 1939 contest, canned more than 600 quarts of vegetables, meats and fruits in the race to establish a live-at-home record. Both Gilmer and Quarles record. Both records in soil conservation, home improvement, and diversification. Farm incomes for the two families were well above the average, and were produced from several sources, the records showed.

FIRST IN STATE

A telegram from Walter Durham, Plant-to-Prosper director, Memphis, revealed that Montgomery County was the first county in the state to report the winners for the 1940 contest, which covers four states in the mid-south, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Mississippi. More than $5,000 in cash and farm machinery is offered to winners of the entire region, who will be named in a special banquet in Memphis some time in December.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
CONDITION OF

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
April 7, 1940

COOPER FOOD PLAN DISCUSSION THEME

Agricultural Experts Meet at Courthouse to Plan Summer Competition

If farm families are to prosper economically, physically and socially they must determine at the outset that a healthful, balanced diet provided from the home fields and orchards is essential, according to discussion leaders at a meeting yesterday of Hamilton county agricultural experts at the courthouse.

Under discussion was the competitive "home food supply" program announced a month ago by Gov. Prentice Cooper.

County Agent E. A. Kerr and Home Demonstration Agent Mrs. J. B. Lauderbach called the meeting and were in charge. Taking leading parts in the discussions were Mrs. Lauderbach and Miss Chassie Shelton, of the county department of agriculture; School Superintendent Marshall Clark, Tim Huddleston and Miss Julia Wilson, vocational agriculture and home economics instructor, respectively, of Ooltewah High school, and Ray Moss, president of the Hamilton County Farm bureau.

The competitive program announced by the governor is to encourage and promote better living among Tennessee farm families. The competition is sponsored by the state department of agriculture, the Tennessee Farm Bureau federation, University of Tennessee division of extension, farm security administration and vocational and home economics instructors.

Must Register by May 15

Farmers who desire to compete in the program must register before May 15. The contest will continue through October and prizes will be awarded in November and December at Nashville. Each county will have a winner and the records of county winners will be compared and a state winner selected much in the manner used for selection of the "Plant to Prosper" champion in West Tennessee.

Adequate production of fruits vegetables, meat, butter, eggs and milk is the purpose of the contest. White and Negro farmers, landlords, tenants and sharecroppers are eligible. Judging will be on production and consumption and quality and variety of foods produced. Each family producing 75 per cent. or more of the food necessary for a specified healthful and balanced diet will receive special recognition from Gov. Cooper.

The program is under way already in Hamilton county. Mr. Huddleston and Miss Wilson reported that more than 200 farm families in the Ooltewah area had registered for the competition. Other vocational agriculture teachers said response in their communities also was favorable, but gave no definite figure on registrations. J. D. Cliet, Tyner; W. H. Bell, Soddy-Daisy, and Mack Looney, Sale Creek, were among the agriculture teachers present.

County Agent Kerr will serve as chairman for the program in Hamilton county and is to announce within a few days a central advisory committee to aid in directing the contest and keeping the farmers interested and the public advised of developments. Handling the details in the various communities of the county will be community committees named by the vocational and home economics teachers.

Home economists at yesterday's meeting included Misses Reba Shropshire and Ena Forte, of Soddy-Daisy; Miss Wilson, of Ooltewah, and Miss Christine Hammett, of Apison. Miss Eleanor Birdsong represented the home management division of the the farm security administration. Mrs. John Bacon attended as a P.-T. A. leader and head of the Country Woman's club.

Springfield, Tenn. Herald
April 15, 1940

Over 6,000 Families Join Farm Plan

A total of 6,300 farm families were enrolled in the 1940 Home Food Supply Program during the first week of the signup and reports of county farm and home agents indicate that the enrollment will reach 20,000 by April 15, states C. E. Brehm, Director of the U-T Agricultural Extension Service.

Leesburg community, Washington County, was the first community in the State to sign up 100 per cent, and Madison County reported the largest signup, with 274 families enrolled. Dickson was second, with 180 and McMinn was the third county to exceed the 100 mark, having a total of 102. In Montgomery County, 40 Negro families were enrolled and in Haywood 42.

The movement which is sponsored by the State Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Extension Service, Farm Security Supervisors, Agricultural and Home Ecomonics teachers, farm organizations and other agencies interested in rural welfare is creating wide interest, Director Brehm stated.

The purpose of this program is to encourage the production of a variety and adequate supply of home grown foods, including fruits, vegetables, meats, milk, butter and eggs. All farm families are eligible to participate and every farm that enrolls in the program and produces 75 per cent or more of the foods necessary for a healthful, well-balanced diet for the family will be given a certificate of recognition by the Governor.

Enrollment blanks and other information on the program may be secured from county farm and home agents, Farm Security Supervisors or Agricultural and Home Economics teachers. Enrollment closes May 15.

Sevierville, Tenn., Vindicator
April 17, 1940

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Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
July 15, 1940

NEGRO FARMERS STUDY OUTLOOK

Large Group Met In Office Of Colored Agent

The countrywide Negro Cover Crop and Farm Market Outlook meeting was well attended here Saturday morning in the office of J. R. Branham, local colored farm agent.

Approximately 40 leading Negro farmers from all sections of Montgomery County, representing Port Royal, Pisgah, Round Pond, Evergreen, Walnut Grove, Ringgold, Bladen, Liner's Chapel, Palmyra, Cabin Row, Boiling Springs, St. Bethlehem, Glenellen, and Griffie Communities were present for this meeting, the agent said.

Four major topics were discussed for the general benefits of the Negro farm folk of Montgomery County. One was the market outlook for farm products as may be affected by the present war situation. Under this topic, the general outlook for burley tobacco, dark tobacco, wheat, hogs, beef cattle, dairy cattle and poultry was discussed in detail. The second topic was making the home and farm as secure as possible by producing as much of the food and feed at home as practical. Under this topic the Negro live-at-home program was emphasized. The Negro County fair, and how it may be made a greater success was the third topic. The final discussion was of cover crops that will fit into the AAA program in earning farm credit units. W. C. Wright, special agent, led in discussion on cover crops.

Nashville, Tenn Banner
September 7, 1940

TOO MANY FARMERS?

Ex-Secretary Wallace comes up with a new explanation of the farm problem, particularly as it affects the agricultural South, when he tells the American Negro Exposition at Chicago that "Already too ~~many~~ people are trying to make a living on Southern farms."

Is not agriculture the "backbone of the nation?" The ex-Secretary knows that it is, and has described it as such.

Is not the Southern region the nerve center of that backbone?

~~Has~~ not everything possible been done to encourage land purchases via subsidy, et cetera? And has not the AAA itself been a part in thus encouraging the breaking up of large farms into small ones? Is not the very tendency of that the attraction of MORE, not fewer, to agricultural pursuits?

Take Tennessee for instance. For Tennessee is a Southern farming state; its population almost two-thirds rural.

The University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural Economics develops the highly significant fact that the state's farmers have received during the depression period an average price higher than the national average on eighteen principal commodities, notably such as corn, wheat, oats, burley tobacco, Irish potatoes, hogs, wool, lambs, and cotton seed.

Tennessee's back-to-the-farm movement during the depression years has been as great on a per capita basis as any, though that was a reversal of the trend in the ten-year period to 1930. The "average" price received for Tennessee cotton was less during this period than in the other Southern states, and it was cotton, primarily, that the ex-Secretary was talking about.

For a real summary of the present farm conditions in the wake of seven years of the AAA's "magic touch," one must compare the farm income with the farm income of the "Terrible Twenties" to which, the reformers are agreed, national political and economic standards must never return.

Hogs have averaged, according to the U. T. report (under the aforementioned "magic touch") $7.08 per hundred. In the Terrible Twenties they averaged $9.50. The "now" and "then" prices on other commodities, compare as follows: Corn, 64 cents and 79.9 cents; wheat, 80.2 and $1.33; Irish potatoes, 77.9 and $1.14; cotton lint 12.21 and 20.8; milch cows, average price each, $53.23 and $67.19.

Solutions which have not solved will ever be a sore point on which the nondebating section of the campaign will tread softly.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Free Press
March 15, 1940

NEGRO GROUP TO TAKE PART IN PIG CHAIN

C. of C. Directors Asked To Finance Project for High School Students

Inclusion of the Negro agricultural students at Booker T. Washington High School in the Chamber of Commerce county pig chain was recommended yesterday by the Agricultural Committee and a request made that the Chamber directors approve $25 for the project.

The plan is to purchase three gilts for distribution among as many Negro F. F. A. students. Prof. J. D. Cliett, of Tyner, chairman of the pig chain governing board said it would not be necessary to purchase achase a boar, as the Negro students are widely scattered and can use the chain boars in possession of the white F. F. A. students nearest them.

The spring litter time has arrived and "Tim" Huddleson, Ooltewah F. F. A. teacher, reported that several litters had already arrived to increase the county's supply of pork.

The date of the annual Chamber of Commerce-farmers picnic at Warner Park was fixed at Saturday, August 17. The piece de resistance, as usual, will be free admission to Engel Stadium where the Lookouts will be playing Nashville.

Prof. A. L. Rankin, chairman of the picnic committee, was unable to be present yesterday, but the committee decided that last year's program would be followed with the added possibility of free concessions.

Dr. Guy Hatchett, county veterinarian, chairman of a committee appointed at a previous meeting to investigate the feasibility of a McClain system demonstration tract for raising pigs to eliminate parasites, said that he was ready, with the co-operation of government agents, to begin the experiments as soon as tracts could be made available. The F. F. A. teachers present agreed to provide the necessary tracts through boys in their classes and it is probable that several experiments will be conducted. All the F. F. A. teachers are agreed that parasites constitute the greatest handicap to pig raising in this area.

W. H. Letton and Mrs. J. B. Lauderbach, of the Better Homes Committee, reported $50 was needed to purchase prizes and Chairman W. G. Foster agreed to take the matter up with the chamber officials and other interested parties.

Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
April 4, 1940

NEGROES URGED TO ENTER FARM RECORD CONTEST

Negro farm families are urged to nter state-wide "Negro Live-at-ome Contest." The deadline for nrolling is April 15, according to . R. Branham, local colored agent.

The agent stated that enrollment ards had been put in mail for approximately 250 farm families tc nroll by filling out and returning o his office. Those who do not reeive cards through mail may call y the office and enroll.

Cash awards of $200 to outstanding Negro families of the state and sweepstake award of $250 are offered to the most outstanding Negro farm family over Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas.

The contest is open to both land owners and tenants and each compete in their respective division.

"This is a program," the agent said, "that every Negro farm family in Montgomery County should enter." The program is designed to encourage farm families to produce ample home food supplies, feed for livestock, to make definite home improvements and to carry out recommended practices in soil conservation and soil building.

"Montgomery County has produced three Negro state winners in the last two years in the contest and this year we are hopeful of a sweepstake winner who will receive a $250 award plus a state award of $50 making a total of $300," the agent said. A large enrollment in the contest is expected.

Newbern, Tenn. Tennessean
November 14, 1940

ANNOUNCE WINNERS IN FOOD PROGRAM

Awards And Certificates Will Be Made To Winners On Achievement Day

In the Food Supply Program Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thornton, of Bonicord, were selected county winners by the county judging committee, with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cobb, of Nauvoo, winning second place and Mr. and Mrs. Theo Tickle, of Lanes Ferry, winning third.

Mr. and Mrs. Thornton were high ranking contestants in both the Plant to Prosper competition and the Food Supply Program. The record made by the Thornton family in the Food Supply Program was in producing for a family of nine and was outstanding. The food supply produced was in part as follows: 814 quarts of canned fruit and vegetables, year around garden with seven vegetables, tomatoes, beans, collards, onions, spinach, turnips and Chinese cabbage in fall garden. Fifty bushels of sweet potatoes, ten bushels Irish potatoes, 100 pounds dried vegetables and fruits, 35 gallons sorghum, one bushel onions, five bushels turnips. Kept 3 cows for milk, 3 heifers for replacement, one calf for home beef canning, 8 hogs for meat, a brood sow for production of meat hogs.

The Thorntons have kept an accurate record of all farm and home receipts and expenses. Mrs. Thornton states that the Food Supply and Plant to Prosper programs have meant much to her family by keeping records and following a plan in producing and canning vegetables and fruits and following the Live at Home program they have cut expenses and have more money for other things that are needed in the home and on the farm. A new cellar for storing the food supply is of great value.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cobb, of Nauvoo, second place winners in the Home Food Program, and Mr. and Mrs. Theo Tickle, of Lanes Ferry, third place winners, also made excellent records.

County winners will be recognized on Achievement Day, at which time certificates and other awards will be made.

Selection of winners in the Plant to Prosper, Negro Live-at-Home and the State Food Supply Program required a tremendous amount of work on the part of the county judging committee. Home visits were made to more than sixty farm families by the committee. Approximately 1,500 farm families in Dyer County were enrolled in the program.

Newbern, Tenn. Tennessean
November 14, 1940

Negro Food Supply Program

Henry Hardy, negro farmer in the Viar community, was selected by the county judging committee as county winner in the Food Supply Program sponsored this year by Governor Cooper. Paul Sampson, of Broadmore, and Rosa Robinson, of Hopewell, were second and third place winners. Winners will be recognized at a program to be held at Bruce High School at Dyersburg Nov. 21. Approximately fifty negro farm families in Dyer County will receive a certificate from the State Department of Agriculture for having produced at least seventy-five per cent of their family food supply at home in 1940.

According to the county judging committee, these farm families have done an outstanding job of producing a well rounded food budget for both the family and the livestock kept on the farm. Farm visits were made to fifteen of the high ranking contestants selected on the basis of records submitted to the county agent's office.

Clarksville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
October 29, 1940

Trade Area Winners Named In Plant - To - Prosper

The 1940 winners in the Plant-To-Prosper contest in the Clarksville Trade Area were named this morning by the regional judging committee. They are John D. Harris of Montgomery County, J. H. Stokes of Dickson County, and James Hewett of Cheatham County having been selected as First Place winners in the area.

Running a close second place in the competition were Henry E. Pace, Cheatham, Alex Batson, Montgomery, and Luther Mobley of Houston County.

Winners were selected as leaders in the following divisions of the contest: best record in Landowners' Division, John David Harris, who receives a $50 merchandise due bill from McNeal & Edwards; best record in Tenant-Sharecropper Division, James Hewett, $50 cash from Chamber of Commerce; best record in Home Improvement, J. H. Stokes, $50 merchandise due-bill from Bass & Company.

Second place winners were selected in the following divisions and will receive the awards set apart for their respective places: Landowner Division, Henry E. Pace, $22.50 merchandise from J. H. Tate & Sons; Tenant-Sharecropper Division, Alex Batson, $22.50 from Chamber of Commerce; Home Improvement Division, Luther Mobley $22.50 merchandise due-bill from Parks-Belk Department Store.

Due to the close competition, four hours were required to select the best records, and all winning books, as well as county winners in the area were sent to the State Judging Committee where they will be entered in the state competition.

The couple making the best record in the state-wide contest at Memphis will get special awards from M. L. Cross Co. The wife is to receive $5 in cash and the husband a $7.50 Stetson hat.

COLORED WINNERS

An award of $10 cash will also be given to Edward Quarles, and Dovie Gilmer, Negro winners in the Live-At-Home contest, landowner and tenant-sharecropper divisions respectively, as well as railroad fare (given by the Leaf-Chronicle Publishing Company) to Memphis where they with the Negro County Agent will attend the annual Live-At-Home banquet as guests of the Commercial Appeal.

Both Negro winners were given state awards last year, in the state competition and the Negro family from the area, who makes the best showing this year, is also to receive $2.50 from the Chamber of Commerce and a $2.50 merchandise due bill from Parks-Belk.

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette
November 14, 1940

Name Negro Winners In County Contests

The judging committee for the Negro Live-at-Home competition which corresponds to the Plant-to-Prosper competition for white farmers announced today the following winners in this competition. First place winner in the negro landowner division was won by Watsey Gauldin of the Good Hope community and the second place winner in the same division was Elwood Walker of the Fairview community.

The winners in the tenant division were as follows: first, James Johnson, Samaria Bend community; second, Edward Adkins, Mt. Olive community; third, Charlie Quinn, Mt. Olive community.

First place winners in both the landowner and tenant divisions will compete for State and Mid-South awards offered by the Commercial Appeal. These winners will also attend the Live-at-Home program at Memphis in December at which time winners in the negro competition in counties throughout the Mid-South will be recognized. The state awards offered by the Commercial Appeal in the Negro Live-at-Home competition are as follows: $50.00 first prize; $25.00 second prize; $15.00 third prize; and $10.00 fourth prize. The sweepstake winner in the Mid-South will receive the Commercial Appeal trophy and $250.00 given by the Agricultural Committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Winners were selected on the basis of records made in living at home, home improvement, soil conservation and diversification.

County awards will be presented to county winners at a program to be held at Bruce High school on Thursday night, November 21. The program is being worked out by H. C. Hardy, County Smith-Hughes Supervisor, and William Thelkeld, Smith-Hughes teacher at Bruce High school. Approximately one hundred and seventy-five negro families were enrolled in the competition.

Henry Hardy, negro farmer of the Viar community, was selected by the judging committee as county winner in the Food Supply program sponsored this year by Governor Cooper. Paul Sampson of Broadmore and Rosa Robinson of Hopewell were second and third place winners.

Winners will be recognized at a program to be held at Bruce High school at Dyersburg November 21. Approximately fifty negro farm families in Dyer county will receive a certificate from the state department of agriculture for having produced at least seventy-five per cent of their family food supply at home in 1940.

According to the county judging committee, these farm families have done an outstanding job of producing a well rounded food budget for both the family and the livestock kept on the farm. Farm visits were made to fifteen of the high ranking contestants selected on the basis of records submitted to the County Agent's office.

Winners in the Food Supply program for white farm families will be selected this week after farm visits are made to high ranking contestants.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
October 31, 1940

SHELBY LIVE-AT-HOME WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Two Will Compete In Statewide Negro Contest

Defeating 2873 other Shelby County negro farmers, James Harris, Route 2 Lucy, and H. A. Terrell, Route 2, Kerrville, yesterday were chosen 1940 Live-At-Home Contest winners in the Landowner and Tenant Divisions respectively.

Harris, who owns a 142-acre tract, had a net income for the year of $3886, while Terrell, who won first place in the county last year, farms 200 acres on shares. His net income for the year was $4308.

Both Harris and Terrell will compete against county winners of other Tennessee counties for state prizes totaling $200. They also will receive The Commercial Appeal Certificate of Award, testifying to their ability and industry.

The Shelby County Live-A-Home Judging Committee was composed of R. H. Brown, negro county agent, chairman; Ernest Brazzell, vocational agricultural teacher at Millington Junior High School; Carnell Wells, principal of Millington Junior High, and Pearl Nichols, superintendent of Shelby County negro schools.

LIVE-AT-HOME WINNERS GET PRIZES TOMORROW

Commercial appeal

Negro Farmers Will Gather At Manassas School

Memphis, Tenn.

$600 IN AWARDS LISTED

Agricultural Leaders Of Three States To Take Part In Annual Program — Texas Official Speaks

DEC 3 1940

By WALTER DURHAM
Director, Plant To Prosper Bureau

With Dr. C. H. Waller, negro state extension agent of Prairie View, Texas, as principal speaker the third annual Live-At-Home Competition rally and dinner will be held at Manassas High School tomorrow.

The program, sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, is expected to attract about 400 negro farmers and agricultural leaders. It will start with registration of county winners in the Live-At-Home Contest at 9:30 o'clock.

General chairman of the rally is R. H. Brown, Shelby County negro extension agent, who won the trophy last year for enrolling the largest number of participants in the contest. He will be assisted by E. R. Shockley, negro county agent of Hardeman County, Tenn., who directed the 1939 Live-At-Home sweepstakes champion, Ed Hendrix of Bolivar, Tenn.

Matthew Thornton, Mayor of Beale Street, will preside and deliver the welcome address. The invocation will be said by Rev. L. A. Kemp, pastor of Gospel Temple Church. Shockley will introduce visiting agricultural leaders and the speakers will be presented by C. H. Beacham, director of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce.

J. C. Barnett of Little Rock, Arkansas district extension agent in charge of negro work, will speak on "The Negro's Place in Agriculture."

Following Dr. Waller's address, certificates of honor will be presented to county winners by district extension agents of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi. These certificates testify to the ability and industry of the winning farmers.

State winners in the Landowner and Tenant Divisions will be presented cash prizes totaling $600 by Walter Durham, director of the Plant To Prosper Bureau of The Commercial Appeal. First prize in each division is $50; second, $25; third, $15, and fourth, $10.

The sweepstake prize of $250 cash and a beautiful trophy will be presented to the champion farmer of the three states by Henry Hicks, chairman of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee. Louis Blakley of The Commercial Appeal will present trophies to the extension agents who obtained the largest Live-At-Home enrolment this year and to the extension worker who produced the sweepstakes champion.

Following the rally, the group will have dinner at the school. Special guests will be representatives of the negro press and negro extension agents of the three states.

State cash prize winners include:

Tennessee — (Landowner Division) — Edward Matthews, Route 4, Bolivar, $50; H. H. Driver, Route 2, Prospect, $25; James Harris, Route 2, Lucy, $15; Luther Barnett, Route 3, Trenton, $10. (Tenant Division) H. A. Turrell, Route 2, Kerrville, $50; Waymon Nelson, Route 2, Prospect, $25; Joe Harris, Route 1, Bolivar, $15; James H. Johnson, Route 1, Dyersburg, $10.

Mississippi — (Landowner Division) Mack Mumphrey, Route 2, Greenville, $50; David Sadberry, Redwood, $25; Jesse J. Wiggins, Route 1, Lyon, $15; McKinley Walker, Route 1, Lamar, $10. (Tenant Division) T. K. Wilbourn Route 2, Charleston, $50; H. F. Dockery, Hernando, $25; Sim Archie, Tralake, $15; J. T. Buchanan, Route 4, Hazlehurst, $10.

Arkansas — (Landowner Division), W. M. Gordon Jr., Route 2, Sherrill, $50; Archie L. Nunn, Route 1, Colt, $25; Leonard Farmer, Route 1, Earle, $15; Paul W. Kelley, Route 1, Clarendon, $10. (Tenant Division) Roy McIntosh, Route 2, Blytheville, $50; Leroy Anderson, Route 2, Trumann, $25; Caesar Ward, Route 1, Marion, $15; Bert Vinson, Almyra, $10.

BEST FARMER IN MIDSOUTH WINS AWARD

Kansas City, Mo.

Tennessean Given $250 in Newspaper 'Live-at-Home' Contest

DEC 13 1940

MEMPHIS. — (ANP) — Edward Matthews, a husky Hardeman County, Tenn., farmer, defeated 19,830 other colored farmers of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi to win the sweepstakes prize of $250 cash, the Memphis Commercial Appeal Live-at-Home gold loving cup and a certificate of honor testifying to his industry and ability, in the third annual good farming contest sponsored by the Memphis daily newspaper.

Mr. Matthews started farming 22 years ago, a tenant. Several years later he bought his present 205 acre productive farm for $3,000 paying only $80 down. Four years later the farm was paid for completely. He married for the second time in 1930 and six years later he purchosed another farm which is now almost paid for. He has four children.

Total income for the year on the Matthews place is $3,106.08, of which $2,321.37 was net. So diversified is his farming program that he had cash income from 19 different sources during the year. Cotton which produced $300, and hay, valued at $169, were the largest cash items listed in his record.

Negro C. Of C. To Participate In Live-At-Home Competition

DEC 4 1940

Impressed with the "progress and advancement" negro farmers of the MidSouth have made by following the four-point Live-At-Home program sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce has adopted a resolution calling for the organization's participation in the 1941 competition.

"Work Invaluable"

"Your work is invaluable to our people, and we regret deeply that our good offices have not been offered heretofore," T. J. Johnson, executive secretary, said in a letter to The Commercial Appeal in which the resolution, adopted by the Executive Committee, was transmitted to the newspaper. S. G. Olive is committee chairman.

"Whereas, The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce are contributing in a most effective way to the progress and advancement of colored farmers of the MidSouth through the Live-At-Home program," the resolution said, "and, whereas, the Negro Chamber of Commerce is appreciative of the recognition and encouragement being given our farming group, be it resolved that the services of the Negro Chamber of Commerce be offered to The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce to be used in any manner helpful in the promotion of this important work.

Prize To Be Offered

"Be it further resolved that the Negro Chamber of Commerce offer a prize or prizes to such winner or winners as might be suggested by the Executive Committee, payment of same to be made from the treasury of the Negro Chamber of Commerce."

While details for the organization's participation in the contest next year have not been settled, it is anticipated that prize money offered by the group will be used for a sweepstakes prize for tenant farmers. A similar prize is offered in the Plant To Prosper Competition for white farmers.

Commercial Appeal

Midsouth's Best

Daily World

Negro Farmer Wins

Atlanta, Ga.

$250 Cash Award

DEC 2 5 1940

MEMPHIS — (ANP) — Edward Matthews, a husky Hardeman County, Tenn., former, defeated 19,830 other colored farmers of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi to win the sweepstakes prize of $250 cash, the Memphis Commercial Appeal Live-At-Home gold loving cup and a certificate of honor testifying to his industry and ability, in the third annual good farming contest sponsored by the Memphis daily newspaper

Mr. Matthews started farming 23 years ago, a tenant. Several years later he bought his present 205-acre productive farm for $3,000 paying only $80 down. Four years later the farm was paid for completely. He married for the second time in 1930 and six years later he purchased another farm which is now almost paid for. He has four children.

Total income for the year on the Matthews place is $3,106.08, of which $2,321.37 was net. So diversified is his farming program that he had cash income from 19 different sources during the year.

Cotton which produced $300, and hay, valued at $169, were the largest cash items listed in his record.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
August 18, 1940

C. I. O. School For Negroes Teaches 'Em To Organize Southern Farm Negroes

Group Assembled At Memphis Hear Radicals Lecture On Tactics—Negroes Had Never Been Away From Home Before

ATTENTION of the MidSouth was focused near the week's end on a nondescript building at 352 West Illinois Avenue in Memphis where twenty "handpicked negroes" from the Southern cotton states were reported to be getting intensive training in C. I. O. organization tactics.

The negroes, never before away from home, had been sent into Memphis by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America Union, a C. I. O. affiliate, to be trained to take the farmer-organization field this Fall. The course is completed today.

Heading the "faculty" of the training school has been "Rev." Claude Williams, ousted in 1938 by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for alleged Communistic activities.

Lecturing to the "classes" have been Miles Norton, director of the pink Highlander Folk School at Monteagle; Winifred Chappell, formerly of Commonwealth College at Mena, Ark., and Harry Kroger, president of the Southern Cotton States Council.

They were also scheduled to hear Jack McMichael, president of the Communist-dominated American Youth Congress and Donald Henderson, international president of the U. C. A. P. & W. A. U. Henderson was ousted from Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for alleged Red leanings.

Not the least interesting was the revelation that the school had been in operation for some time apparently unknown to agencies supposed to be keeping an eye on radical activities.

Clarksville, Tenn., Leaf Chronicle
September 24, 1940

NEGRO FAIR OPENS OCT. 4

Noted Colored Leader to Make Short Address

Nationally known Negro educator and agricultural leader, Director J. B. Pierce of Hampton Institute, Va. will attend Montgomery County Colored Fair here Friday, October 4. Dr. Pierce will deliver a brief address to a Negro farm group on Friday morning of the fair preceding the showing of the movie picture "Four Pillars of Income," scheduled for ten a. m., at the Capitol Theatre.

J. R. Branham, local colored farm agent, said that he had received direct information from Dr. Pierce which stated that he had completed all arrangements to attend the colored fair here on Friday, Oct. 4, and would deliver a brief address to the Negro rural folk of Montgomery County who would be here for the fair.

Dr. Pierce is regional director in Negro Agricultural Extension Work for nine southern states and has spent approximately thirty years in the field of agriculture and as a developer of Negro rural life throughout the south, Branham said.

Dr. Pierce will give special attention to the "Four Pillars of Income," movie picture and how its principles may be applied to Negro rural life in various sections of the country.

Dr. Pierce will meet the Negro farmers of this area and discuss with them their farm problems and to offer helpful suggestions gained from his years of experience in dealing with Negro rural folk. He will spend the entire day here studying the various farm and home demonstrations that will be set up at the fair and that he may come in personal contact with as many Negro farmers of Montgomery County as possible while here attending the educational programs of the fair, it was said.

It is strongly urged that every Negro farmer in Montgomery County be present Friday of the Fair which is educational day.

All farm products for exhibitions should be sent in by Saturday, Sept the 28. However Wednesday, October 2, is the deadline for such products. Livestock and poultry will be received on Thursday, October 3, and should not be sent in before this date.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
December 15, 1940

HONORS FOR NEGROES

Certificates of merit will be awarded by Commissioner of Agriculture C. C. Flanery to 800 Shelby County Negro farmers Monday morning in Memphis.

The farmers are to be honored for making outstanding records in the state food supply program.

Boliver, Tenn/ Times,
Oct. 2, 1940-

Texas Editor Praises Edd And Alice Hendrix For Work Done On Farm

Observing the progress made by numerous farmers in Miss., Tenn., Missouri, and Arkanas, in the Plant to Prosper movement, Paul Franks, editor of the Acco Press of Houston, Texas had started a movement to have the program innaugurated in the state of Texas.

Mr. Franke recently visited Tenn., spending much time visiting among Plant to Prosper winners of the state. He spent considerable time at the home of Ed and Alice Hendrix in the Oak Dale commnity, colored winners of the 1939 sweepstakes live at home award of $250 cash as well as a local prize and a state award of fifty dollars.

Following the research Mr. Franke dedicated the Sept. issue of his paper to the Plant to Prosper movement, calling attention to the fact that farmers of the Mid-South have made much progress under the movement.

Part of article appearing concerning the Hendrix and their farm follows:

"A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING A MAN CAN GROW"

"Edd Hendrix, colored, told me he won the Negro Live-At-Home competition last year by raising a little of everything a man can grow." But that's not the entire story, for Edd and Alice, his wife, began to work for their prize the day they moved on the all but abandoned farm near Bolivar, Tenn., which they bought twenty-five years ago. One gullied hillside still remains to give you an idea of what the entire farm must have been like when they took it over. People said they'd starve to death on that land, but Edd says, "We worked it out." He meant that literally." Edd's a good farmer, but the amount of hard work he must have put into those gullied hillsides—it makes you sweat to think about it!

They have terraces, cover crops, pastures, corn, cotton, as a matter of course—Edd makes a bale to the acre with the aid of commercial fertilizer—Milk cows, chickens, pigs with a purebred boar, guineas (they keep them "for the noise"), three "pine orchards" which Edd keeps cleaned out, a heat and comfortable cottage home.

Edd and Alice Hendrix were well chosen winners of last year's contest, for it is a fine example of hard work, perseverance, friendliness and economic independence they set others of their race."

Although Edd and Alice are not eligible to compete in the live-at-home competition anymore they have entered the Progressive Farmer contest, sponsored by the Progressive Farmer Magazine which closes Feb. 2, 1942.

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette
November 22, 1940

ALL WINNERS

Dyer county farmers were especially honored here last night for the success they have attained during the year in various programs inaugurated and sponsored for their benefit.

While the rewards distributed in number were small, they in no way compare with the results that have been achieved during the year by those who competed for the honors.

Winners in Governor Prentice Cooper's State Food Supply program, the Dyersburg Junior Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Commercial Appeal Plant-to-Prosper program, and the Negro "Live-at-Home" competition were singled out to receive rewards.

However, they were not the only ones benefitting from the programs that have been carried out during the year. Profiting as much as the prize winners were all the others who competed for the top honors handed out last night.

They by no means failed because they did not get first, second o rthird prize. After all, distribution of the prizes was not the main purpose of the sponsors.

Had this been true, they would have accomplished little for all the efforts and interest they have manifest in establishing and encouraging these programs among participants.

It is what the participants have learned about better methods of farming and living on the farm that counts, and this was the full intent and purpose of the programs.

It is entirely possible that those who failed to win awards learned as much and will profit as much—with exception of receiving an award—as those who finished first in the competition.

So, the program held here last night and attended by prominent leaders to honor the participants in these programs in Dyer county was not merely to recognize those whose names were lauded as place winners and the recipients of material awards, but for every participant in each of the several programs.

They are all winners, as the passing of time is certain to prove.

Newbern, Tenn. Tennessean
November 14, 1940

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN NEGRO PLANT TO PROSPER

The judging committee for the Negro Live-at-Home competition that corresponds to the Plant to Prosper competition for white farmers, announced today the following winners in this competition: first place, Watsey Gauldin of the Good Hope community; second place, Elwood Walker of Fairview community.

The winners in the tenant division were as follows: first, James Johnson, Samaria Bend community; second, Edward Adkins, Mt. Olive community, and third, Charlie Quinn, Mt. Olive community.

First place winners in both the landowner and tenant divisions will compete for state and mid-south awards offered by the Commercial Appeal. These winners will also attend the Live-at-Home Program at Memphis in December at which time winners in the Negro competition in counties throughout the Mid-South will be recognized. The state awards offered by the Commercial Appeal in the Negro Live at Home competition are as follows: first prize $50, second prize $25, third prize $15, fourth prize $10. The sweepstake winner in the Mid-South will receive the Commercial Appeal trophy and $250 given by the Agricultural Committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Winners were selected on the basis of records made in living at home, home improvement, soil conservation and diversification.

County awards will be presented to county winners at a program to be held at Bruce High School Thursday night, Nov. 21. The program is being worked out by H. C. Hardy, County Smith-Hughes Supervisor, and William Thelkeld, Smith-Hughes teacher at Bruce High School. Approximately one hundred seventy-five Negro famiiles were enrolled in the competition.

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette
November 19, 1940

To Honor Negroes For Achievements

Dyer county negro farmers and their wives completed their blue ribbon program Monday night, it was announced today by H. C. Hardy, farm supervisor. To the farmers who have produced seventy-five per cent of their food-stuff will be given a framed certificate as a word of encouragement in the home food supply drive which was launched by Governor Cooper. Some forty or fifty negroes will receive awards, along with the winners in the Home Food Supply program and Live At Home contest also.

The competition in the contest this year among the negro farmers has been very keen, especially in the food division, some thirty-five or forty all year gardens with up as high as twenty-one different varieties, as compared with five and nine two years ago.

In some of the competitors' homes there are as high as 672 quarts of canned fruits and vegetables, and plenty dried of the same.

Thursday night the program will open at 8 o'clock with addresses and lectures from various members who serve as state and district supervisors in the agricultural field.

Special music will be rendered by the Bruce High school chorus, Dyer county N. F. A. quartet, known as the Jolly Four Gospel Singers, and the I. C. Four. The public is invited to attend.

Negro Winners Announced In Live-At-Home Competitior

DEC 1 1940

JACKSON, Tenn., Nov. 30.—Edward Matthews, Route 4, Bolivar, Hardeman County, and H. A. Terrell, Route 2, Kerrville, Shelby County, are state winners in the Landowner and Tenant Divisions, respectively, of the 1940 Tennessee Live-At-Home Competition for negro farmers.

The announcement was made Saturday by Judd Brooks, district extension agent of Jackson and chairman of the State Judging Committee, which visited homes of finalists in the contest.

Will Compete For $250

First place winners in both divisions will receive $50 cash and are eligible to compete for the $250 sweepstakes award to be presented the negro farmer who makes the best record this year in living at home, improving his home, diversifying his crops and conserving his soil.

The presentation will be made at the annual Live-At-Home rally and banquet at Manassas High School in Memphis Dec. 4. County winners will be awarded Certificates of Honor, testifying to their ability and industry.

Other winners in the Landowner Division are H. H. Driver, Route 2, Prospect, Giles County, second; James Harris, Route 2, Lucy, Shelby County, third, and Luther Barnett, Route 3, Trenton, Gibson County, fourth. They will receive $25, $15 and $10, respectively.

In the Tenant Division, second place went to Waymon Nelson, Route 2, Prospect. Joe Harris, Route 1, Bolivar, Hardeman County, was third, and James H. Johnson, Route 1, Dyersburg, Dyer County, was fourth. They also will receive $25, $15 and $10 awards.

Win Honorable Mention

Honorable mention in the Landowner Division went to W. M. Morgan, Route 2, Denmark, Madison County, while Henry Ivie, tenant, of Route 2, Trenton, first-place winner in the state last year, will have his record book graded by the Live-At-Home Sweepstakes Committee.

Matthews' farm contains 205 acres, of which 70 acres are in cultivation. His total farm receipts were $3106.08. He had a total of 19 income sources, with cotton providing $300 of his cash. The family of six spent only $30 for food during the year. Matthews completely rebuilt his home at a cost of only $284.71 cash.

Terrell's farm contains 205 acres, with 180 acres in cultivation. This year he had a net income of $4308, with cotton and cotton seed accounting for $2960 of his cash income. The family of 11 spent $135 for food that could not be produced on the farm and now has a food inventory of $809.50.

Gallatin, Tenn., Exam.-Tennessean
November 22, 1940

HOME FOOD SUPPLY FROLICK DRAWS MANY VISITORS

About 250 Sumner Countians and Gov. Prentice Cooper and Congressman elect Percy Priest frolicked here Tuesday night at the first of a series of Home Food Supply Parties over the state.

The meeting featured no speeches although Governor Cooper commented "of the record" to the crowd several times. It was during one of these statements that he hinted continuance of the Home Food Supply program over a period of years.

Governor Cooper also awarded the HFSP certificates to those who complied with the rules of the program and said "that these mark you as leading citizens of the state of Tennessee." Previously Gov. Cooper had made similar awards to several Negro farmers at the Negro High school here.

Percy Priest, congressman-elect, was the leader of much of the funny end of the program and led in group singing. The new Fifth District Congressman made no speech but was popularly decked out in blue overalls and a red flannel shirt.

Governor Cooper came dressed in street clothes but changed and entered the meeting with Miss Nita Orr and Miss Katherine McClean with a pair of overalls about three sizes too large.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
IMPROVEMENT OF

TEXAS

100 Boys Participate in Hog-Butchering Contest



More than 100 boys from 28 high schools in Northeast Texas participated in a hog-butchering contest held at the Marion county fairgrounds in Jefferson, Texas, last week. The contest was held under the direction of E. E. Collins of Texarkana, teacher-helper in vocational training under the Smith-Hughes act. The teachers are all graduates of the Prairie View State College.

Schools were represented by teams eof three with each team carrying its own hog through all processes from killing to packing away the meat. The contestants were registered from Marshall, Longview, Jefferson, Gilmer, Tatum, Kilgore, Pittsburg, Hawkins, Gladewater, Douglas, Quitman, Mount Pleasant, Greenville, Point, Atlanta, Kildare, Bivins, Texarkana, Naples, Hooks, Maud, Linden and Marietta.

In the photographs are shown (top), teacher Lozeno Rtuledge and his team of Johnny Crowder, L. D. Noel and T. G. Forte fro mthe Arkadelphia school at Maud. E. E. Collins is shown in the background. This group is scraping a hog just lifted from the scalding vat. Rosenwald school team from Marshall is shown in the lower picture ready to start butchering. Members are Willie Ray McCarver Otis More and Wilbert Reeves —Dallas Morning News Photo

FSA Supervisor Leaves For Virgin Islands

SEP 21 1940

GENEVA, ALA., Sept. 30.—Miss Jo Tippins, home management supervisor of the Farm Security Administration of Geneva County, left Thursday for Mobile, from where she will sail shortly for the Virgin Islands. Miss Tippins, who has been appointed to a position in the islands similar to the one she held in Alabama, will be located on the Island of St. Croix, but her work will extend over both St. Croix and St. Thomas. With three associate workers she will commute from one island to the other in a small plane, while working to improve the homes and living conditions of the farmers and their families.

LURE OF THE CITY LOSING ITS POWER OVER FARM YOUTH

Agricultural Education Is Credited for Change.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 20.—The lure of the city is losing its power over farm boys and girls. Norman Ackley, assistant manager of the junior fair of the Wisconsin state fair, concluded after 23 years of experience with children in the junior fairs and at Fort Atkinson High school, where he teaches vocational agriculture.

A preference for farm over factory, he said, has been developed by changing conditions in agriculture and by the growth of agricultural education in the schools. "Wisconsin farm youngsters won't be going into factories to stand hour after hour on a treadle," Ackley said. "It isn't that they look down on factory work. They have learned to look up to farm work."

Farming as a Profession.

There are 203 schools teaching agriculture in Wisconsin. "The students get farm crops the first year," Ackley explained, "animal husbandry, the second year, farm mechanics the third and farm management the fourth. At home the students raise hogs, poultry or calves. They learn to treat seed and test cattle.

"That has created the feeling among students that farming is a profession. They learn that farming is not a haphazard routine of chores, tending cows, complaining about the weather and kicking about hard life.

"They find it is fun to improve cattle by balanced feeding, to improve crops by treating the land and seed. The boy learns to budget his time. He meets other boys in the Future Farmers, the national organization of high schol vocational agriculture students. He is goaded by what other boys are achieving. He is finding success on the farm."

Attendance Sets Record.

Attendance at the fair passed last year's record, with 26,650 paid admissions up to noon to add to the 175,276 of the first three days of the fair.

The Children apparently acquire more freckles than those on the farm. The first five winners in a freckle contest were from cities and villages. Eight year old Edward Mulqueen of Cudahy, won first place for number and quality of freckles. Norman Radler, 13, West Allis, was second; Jeanette Halvorson, a 13 year old red haired Milwaukee girl, was first of the girls; Dorothy Wacholz, 17, Milwaukee, was second, and Carl Hasslet, Milwaukee, was third boy.

Charles Jones, Waukesha, who was bound to be called Casey, is so good at pitching horseshoes that it is hard to find competition for him. He won the state horseshoe pitching championship at the fair today for the eighth consecutive year. He went thru 16 qualifiers without a defeat, beating Harvey Elmerson, Milwaukee, one time champion. Jones scored 49 ringers in 56 shoes to beat Elmerson in the play off.

Tomorrow at the fair will be Governor's day, a day that used to be devoted to politicians. Ralph E. Ammon, fair manager, has announced there will be no political speeches over the loud speakers and no political program. Despite the announcement, many of the candidates are expected to be at the fair grounds during the day.

Snowy Cotton Field Awaiting Nimble-Fingered Contestants

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Oct. 12—Nimble-fingered farm hands from throughout the cotton belt will match speed and dexterity for the first cotton picking championship of the world and $2000 in prizes near here Tuesday.

OCT 13 1940

So far there are 92 entries, ranging in age from 18 to 50—thin people, fat people, tall people and short people. But each is brimful of confidence—for they had to post $10 entrance fee to compete.

Strong Back Needed

But more important than luck or confidence will be a strong back and tireless arms. There's no place for the inexperienced. To lean at a back-breaking angle for two hours between waist-high cotton rows plucking the fluffy white bolls clean and whole requires stamina.

"A man's fingers become all thumbs if he's not in shape," commented one contestant.

To the champion—the one picking the biggest poundage—will go $1000—more money than an average family of pickers can make in a whole season. Second prize is $250, third $100 and there are five $50 awards and 16 $25 prizes.

Roscoe Crafton, president of the National Cotton Picking Championship, said he was preparing for several thousand spectators to witness the novel contest, "the first of its kind."

OCT 13 1940

Loudspeakers Set Up

Loudspeakers rolling over the 125-acre field will give onlookers a pluck-by-pluck description.

At the starting gun, the contestants—about two-thirds negroes, some women—each in an assigned row, will begin picking, thrusting the staple into long sacks hung from their shoulders. Two hours later they will stop and bring their cotton to the judges for weighing.

"Each one will be given two half-mile long rows of cotton," said Mr. Crafton. "We know nobody can pick more than that in two hours."

Experience will be a paying factor, for careless picking will bring contestants big penalties. The stalks must be picked clean and there must be no excess leaves picked with the boll.

Three expert judges who can tell at a glance how much waste there is in the cotton or can estimate how much cotton has been skipped in the rows will decide what penalties to levy. Each contestant's pickings will be examined when it is weighed.

OCT 13 1940

No "Proper" Technique

There's no "proper" technique for picking. Some of the best pickers use three fingers, some two, some as many as five to yank the boll loose. Some are one-handed, some two, their wrist and body action, though important in a contest, runs to all styles and stages.

One Dallas negro boasted the winner would have to pick more than 300 pounds to beat him. An average picker wouldn't better 100 pounds in two hours.

Various civic organizations of Blytheville co-operated to start this first championship and a 125-acre plot on the Ross Hughes plantation, less than a mile from here, was dedicated as the trying ground.

The field Saturday was snowy white with cotton grown from best grade seed especially for the contest.

Cotton Pickers

Blytheville, Ark. had never seen so many folks before. On Ross Hughes's farm there were 15,000 of them—come from as far away as Texas to see the first annual cotton-picking championship of the U. S.

It was Roscoe Crafton's idea. Set a-thinkin' by the national publicity given the Corn Belt's annual corn-husking championship, he got some fellow cotton merchants to form an association last winter, sow the seeds of a national cotton-picking contest. "Wide open to the world" it would be. So they sent invitations to the Cotton Belt's Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs, asking them to sponsor an entrant apiece.

Last week 136 contestants showed up: men & women, black & white, day laborers, land-owning farmers from eleven States. Some came as free-lance pickers (paying their own $10 entry fee), but the majority represented civic-minded cotton communities. Each entrant was given two half-mile rows to pluck. A good cotton picker, pacing himself for a day's work in the field, averages from 18 to 35 lb. an hour. But last week's pickers were after something more than a day's pay. When the two-hour limit was up, one of the pickers had turned in 129 lb. of "good clean cotton." He was 15-year-old Harold Mason, a shy, gangling Senath, Mo. schoolboy, youngest competitor in the field.

If he had picked that cotton for Planter Hughes the day before, young Mason would have been paid about 75¢. Last week he got $1,000 and the title "first world's champion cotton picker." Descendant of a long line of farm folk, Schoolboy Mason intends to use his prize money for an agriculture course at the University of Missouri.

TIME, October 28, 1940

Cotton Pickers Needed

Demands for an additional 5000 cotton pickers a day are going unanswered in Memphis, according to Mayor Chandler. If that is true, it might be a good time to scan the relief lists and for the police to check on the consistent nonworkers. There isn't much excuse for idleness when jobs wait in the fields, transportation is furnished, and a reasonable wage is paid. Payment is made at the end of each day's work. A day or so ago we had occasion to drive into Arkansas. We passed vast fields of cotton in which not a picker was working. At the same time we could have visited any number of spots in Memphis notorious as places for consistent idling. If the city government can bring the idlers and the cotton fields together it will have done a good job. The crop is made. It has to be gotten in.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

OCT 13 1940

Probe of Associated Farmers



Among those present at a recent session in Los Angeles of the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee, which is investigating anti-labor activities of the Associated Farmers were: (1) the notorious Police Lieut. William F. Hynes of the Los Angeles red squad; (2) Carl B. Kegley, attorney-secretary of the Cabinet & Store Fixture Mfg. Assn.; (3) Frank B. Wheat, cabinet manufacturer; (4) Samuel M. Haskins, former president of the Merchants & Manufacturers Assn.; (5) C. R. Leslie, M. & M. A. counsel; (6) Stuart Neary, 1936 reorganizer of M. & M. A.; (7) Fred R. Fysh, M. & M. A. general manager; (8) George H Hippard, former M. & M. A. employe; (9) Clarence L. Dawson, vice president, Security-First Natl. Bank; (10) William R. Walsh, NLRB senior attorney; (11) Carey McWilliams, liberal attorney and author of Factories in the Fields, an expose of working conditions in the rich valleys of southern California; (12) A. L. Wirin, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

FLORIDA

30-Cent Cotton Back Again—At Least On Florida Farms

Advertiser Montgomery
OCT 9 1940

By WAYNE OLIVER
Associated Press Staff Writer

LEESBURG, FLA., Oct. 8.—Ten-cent cotton may be all right for some farmers but many Florida growers are getting more than 30 cents a pound.

The answer is Sea Island long staple cotton, a crop that was virtually wiped out by the boll weevil 25 years ago, but which is coming back strong in central and north Florida and parts of Georgia.

They don't have to worry about marketing quotas, for the silky-textured long staple finds buyers as fast as it is offered.

The entire American yield of Sea Island cotton for 1940 has been estimated at 5,000 bales, of which Florida will produce about half.

Sea island cotton is finer in texture and its fibers are 1 1-2 to two inches long, against about 7-8 of an inch for short staple.

It is used in making sewing thread and yarns, fine dress goods, laces, hosiery, parachutes, airplane wing fabrics, shirts, underwear, men's Summer suits, neckties, upholstery, draperies and many other items.

State Commissioner of Agriculture Nathan Mayo, one of the leaders in revival of the crop in Florida, recently offered to bet anyone they couldn't tell whether his shirt was silk or Sea Island cotton. There were no takers and he kept his shirt—which was long staple.

The revival of Sea Island planting was begun in Florida five years ago under State and Federal sponsorship. Federal experts and plant pathologists of the University of Florida's experiment stations studied methods of overcoming the boll weevil.

The voracious insect's terrific late afternoon thirst provided the answer—an aperitif of syrup and poison.

Distribution of the poison to farmers was made a WPA project, and the chief enemy of the crop was put to rout.

AGRICULTURE - 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

Farmers Cheer Plea for Unity With Labor

Daily Worker
New York N.Y.
NOV 20 1940

Greetings Are Sent to Conventions of the AFL and the CIO

By Harold Preece
(Special to the Daily Worker)

DENVER, Nov. 19.—Five hundred Americans of the soil attending the 36th annual convention of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America today looked forward to participation with a united labor movement in a greatly strengthened fight for genuine democracy and real security.

The convention hall in the Shirley-Savoy Hotel rang with applause at the opening session of the three-day conference yesterday when Elmer McClain, of Lima, Ohio, chairman of the Farm Problems Committee of the National Lawyers Guild, who has carried eight cases involving farmers to the U. S. Supreme Court told them:

"There is no problem in the United States which can be solved without the sympathy and the cooperation of the farmers. Unless all the laboring people unite with the farmers, theer can be no solution of any fundamental problems."

GREET CIO, AFL

One of the first official acts of the convention was to adopt a proposal by National President John Vesecky to send greetings to conventions of the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the National Grange meeting in other American cities this week. When a farmer delegate arose to make a motion in accordance with Vesecky's proposal, someone from the platform called out:

"Let's all second it."

The delegates and visitors shot up their hands approvingly before Vesecky had a chance to put the motion. Others rose in all sections of the hall and cheered.

But the farmers showed that they wanted unity with labor on the basis of a fighting program rather than one of compromise along the lines of Sidney Hillman and William Green by the lukewarm reception that they gave to a red-baiter—George W. Brayfield, president of the Colorado Federation of Labor composed of all AFL bodies in the state.

Brayfield was applauded when he expressed the hope that unity would result from the AFL convention in New Orleans and the CIO convention in Atlantic City. But when he went on to declare that the CIO must "get rid of certain elements," his remarks were received in stony silence by the farmers. He continued for a few minutes, then sat down to a faint ripple of hands.

The next speaker, Bert Chipman, general grievance chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, answered Brayfield by implication, declaring that **"the problems of America will not be solved without unity of America's workers and farmers whatever their individual differences."**

"We have no quarrel with either the CIO or the AFL. We need the unity of all producers regardless of politics, race, or religion," Chipman declared.

"Today, the farmers at spirited conference sessions are hammering out their part of the program which America's common people hope to see emerging from the combined deliberations of the AFL, the CIO, and the Farmers Union.

FOUR CONFERENCES

Colorado State President James G. Patton yesterday announced that the committee plan of a few people to formulate recommendations on each policy would be scrapped and that the convention would be divided into four conference sessions involving every delegate and visitor.

Tom W. Cheek of Oklahoma City, heads the important legislative conference; Mrs. Gladys Talbott Edards, of Jamestown, N. D., the educational; Harry Witham, Kansas City, the cooperative; and Patton, the organizational conference.

The four chairmen will constitute a program committee to formulate a future policy for presentation to the convention at the final day's session tomorrow. The conferences which began shortly after the morning session yesterday were attended by an estimated 90 per cent of the delegates and visitors to the convention.

Vigorous efforts to pass in Congress the income certificate bills granting 100 per cent parity prices to American farmers were recommended by the farm conference at its opening session yesterday. These bills, once backed by the Roosevelt administration but sidetracked when the war drums began rolling in Europe, would add several millions of dollars to the incomes of small farmers growing corn, cotton, barley, rye, wheat, rice, and hogs.

The legislative conference also recommended that the government quit handling surplus farm commodities acquired by government purchase, permitting cooperatives and private middlemen to handle these products. Some delegates regarded this recommendation as being unfortunate insofar as aid to grasping middlemen was concerned, feeling that the government regulations for the handling of surplus products should be amended only to the extent of reducing pressure upon the cooperatives which have been handicapped by government competition.

Still to be considered by the legislative conference is the Farm Union Debt Adjustment Bill previously frowned upon by Vice-President Elect Henry Wallace, while he was serving as Secretary of Agriculture, because it gave too many concessions to small farmers as well as a measure, also sponsored by the Union in the last Congress, to permit government underwriting of loans to tenants who wish to purchase land. The present Bankhead-Jones act gives assistance under rigid restrictions to only a few thousand of the millions of tenant farmers in America.

It is regarded as certain that this conference will recommend a renewed fight for equitable debt adjustment and for tenant rehabilitation.

WANT PEACE

The desire of the people back on the farms for peace rather than war continued to express itself at this convention of those who speak for rural America.

John Hawkins, 22-year-old farm boy of Austin, Colorado, expressed the hope of the more than 100 junior members attending the convention when he told the Daily Worker:

"I'd rather stay home and help my parents on the farm raise apples and peaches than go off to war. I don't think much of war and conscription because I want a chance to live before I have to die.

"When young men go off to war, they come back if they aren't killed with their minds and their bodies all shot up so that they aren't much good for anything. The farm boys around Austin want either a chance to make good on the farm or to find good jobs. They want to marry nice girls and raise nice families."

Young Hawkins is trying to eke out the slim income of a farm boy by selling Farmers Union insurance. He admits that it's a hard job trying to sell insurance to people who have nothing. But he knows that war will be not only the death blow to the lives of America's young men but to the living standards of their families as well.

Ole Olson, member of the state executive board of the North Dakota Farmers Union declared at the opening session that "we must solve economic and social problems to make democracy safe."

"When we do solve these problems," Olson declared, "our nation will be safe from attack.

"We must have agricultural prosperity to have prosperity in the nation. It is vitally important that we do a sound, good job in formulating our policies here."

U. S. Senator Edward C Johnson, of Colorado, disappointed the large audience last night when he spoke briefly without even mentioning the vital issues of keeping out of war and repealing conscription.

For the past few days, Johnson who voted against conscription has been stating in the press that the peace-time draft program would break down of its own weight within a year's time. Last night, he spoke very briefly on the necessity of finding markets for surplus farm commodities through an arrangement with the German government to supply food for the countries now held captive by the Nazi imperialists. Sources attempting to draw America into the war on the side of the British imperialists are opposing any program which would give food to the innocent victims of Europe's gang war.

FAMINE FEARED

Pointing to the possibility that 15,000,000 people may die of famine in Europe within the next six months, Senator Johnson said:

"I don't think we can escape famine because famine means disease and disease sweeps whole continents."

NOV 20 1940

Reid Robinson, international president of the International Union of Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers with headquarters in Denver, was unable to be present at the Farmers Union convention because of his attendance at the CIO convention in Atlanta. He sent instead his personal representative, Harold Rossman, who said that the CIO has backed progressive farm organization 100 per cent and will continue to do so.

Rossman emphasized that organized labor wanted to see farmers get their rights, saying that closer cooperation between farmers and workers will immensely benefit both groups.

Impressive memorial services were held by candlelight last night for members of the Union who have died during the last year. The services were conducted by Rev. Edgar M. Wahlberg, pastor of the Grace Community Church, Denver.

Tonight is "Junior Night" featuring a program of ten years of work by the Union among young people. Two young people from each state represented will be given the rank of "torch bearer" for their outstanding services to the organization during the past year. Mrs. Edwards, who is national educational director of the Union, will act as chairman.

Farmers, Domestics May Be Given Social Security

DEC 21 1940

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—From authoritative sources it is learned that the social security board of the Federal Security agency, is planning to adopt certain recommendations and features concerning the coverage of domestic and agricultural workers, now not included under the act.

Before Congress now are two bills, one in the Senate sponsored by Senator Wagner of New York and one in the House sponsored by Representative McCormick of Massachusetts, providing for the protection of these workers under the Social Security act.

Determined to obtain first hand information, it is reported that a survey is being conducted, or contemplated by the social security board in a large eastern city to determine just what can be done and the best coverage possible under existing circumstances.

It is further reliably reported that the board is endeavoring to assemble as competent a staff of workers from its own rolls to conduct the survey as is possible to get together.

With this in view, the results of the survey are sure to give the board some definite information on the wide variance of working hours, wages, conditions under which domestics work, and other factors necessary to determine proceedure.

Much agitation has been brought to bear in the past on the failure of the act to cover the largest number of colored workers in the country, since more Negroes are employed in the domestic and agricultural fields than in any others.

This move will prove more beneficial to Negroes, if it is carried out, than many previous acts legislated and is one which will gain the full support of the individuals to be investigated for coverage.

Officials are keenly aware of the reactions which may set in as a result of the plan of the government to include Negroes under this coverage and are proceeding cautiously in obtaining the information they desire.

No official announcement of the contemplated survey has as yet been made as it is in the embryonic stage at present and interviews for workers are just being carried out.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

GENERAL

The 'Croppers Fight Back

• The news of the President's heartless slash of farm tenant aid, along with the other social measures, has aroused a wave of indignation among the sharecroppers and farm tenants of seven states.

In Missouri, the sharecroppers hear the news just as they are being evicted from their homes in deep snow and freezing rain.

The bad news comes to Oklahoma as parents see their children pale and sick with rickets, pellagra and hunger.

It is officially estimated that 40,000 farmers are hurled down into the tenant and cropper class every year. The Farm Security Administration has had funds to help only 10,000 of these. Yet in the President's hunger and war budget, aid for farm tenants is to be slashed from $40,000,000 a year to $25,000,000.

Under the leadership of the CIO tenant and agricultural unions, croppers of seven states are sending delegations to Washington to demand emergency measures and to protest the inhuman slashes. The voice of these croppers comes from the very heart of America. They should receive the support of labor everywhere.

SHARECROPPERS BEGIN WASHINGTON MEETING

Six Cotton States Represented At Gathering

PETITION GIVES AIMS

More Aid Is Sought From Federal Agencies — Delegation Asks End Of 'Wholesale Evistion' By Landlords

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Twenty-five representatives of sharecroppers in six cotton producing states this afternoon opened a two-day conference to bring the plight of Southern tenant farmers to the attention of Federal agencies.

The delegates, chiefly negroes, came from Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Donald Henderson, president of the United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers of America (C. I. O.), said all were members of his organization except the Texans, who represented the Southern Farmers Union.

Program Outlined

The delegation carried a petition, which members said was signed by 20,000 Southern sharecroppers, addressed to President Roosevelt and Secretary Wallace. The petitions requested the following program be put into force:

1. End "wholesale evictions" of sharecroppers in the South.

2. Have the Farm Security Administration and the United States Housing Authority "keep a decent shelter over our heads."

3. Provide enough Work Projects Administration relief in Winter "to keep our families from starving."

4. Change the Agricultural Adjustment Act to assure sharecroppers of their benefits instead of permitting forced assignments to landowners.

Confer With FSA

Meetings were held this afternoon with representatives of the Farm Security Administration. Sessions were scheduled for tomorrow with officials of the WPA, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the United States Housing Authority.

Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, negro minister from Kirkwood and leader of the Missouri delegation, presented proposals discussed at a Missouri Sharecroppers' Conference called recently by Gov. Lloyd Stark.

Complaints Are Heard

Members of the delegation complained to Farm Security Administrator Will W. Alexander that in many cases county rehabilitation loan committees were made up entirely of landlords and were inclined to treat tenants unjustly. Alexander told them that as vacancies arose an attempt would be made to place one tenant on each county Rehabilitation Loan Committee.

The delegation complained also that some landlords on county Rehabilitation Committees owned cotton gins and tried to force borrowers to patronize them. Alexander said the FSA would try to meet this situation by prohibiting committee members from profiting directly or indirectly from loans approved.

In reply to a request that Government pressure be applied to force landlords to make written contracts with day laborers, Mr. Alexander said the FSA lacked such authority.

SHARECROPPERS OFFER PETITION

25 Representatives From Six Cotton States Meet At Capital

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The Rev. Owen H. Whitfield Negro minister from Kirkwood and leader of the Missouri delegation, presented proposals discussed at a Missouri sharecroppers' conference called recently by Gov. Lloyd Stark.

In the South the sharecroppers pay the huge company one-fourth of their cotton crop. In other regions, Rogers admitted, the share of the company amounts to between 30 and 40 per cent.

Metropolitan Life, now testifying before the Federal Monopoly Committee, has been revealed as one of the nation's largest landowners through a policy of acquiring farms by foreclosing on mortgages. Its total holdings are valued on its books at $83,290,000. The company has consistently refused to employ Negroes in any capacity other than porters and scrub-women.

Metropolitan Life Takes in Millions From Sharecroppers

Probe Shows Giant Insurance Co. Gets "Super-profits off Poor of South

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29 (Special to CNA)—A Sordid picture of one of the nation's richest and most powerful financial institutions Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., taking in millions of dollars of super-profits annually in the form of 30 to 40 per cent of the crops raised by thousands of tenant farmers on land which it owns was unfolded unblushingly this week by Glenn D. Rogers, an official of the insurance firm.

Rogers admitted that in 193[illegible] rentals taken from the company's sharecroppers amounted to $5,000,000 and for the three years before that it has never fallen below $4,000,000 annually. Rogers' testimony gave graphic proof of the responsibility of northern financial institutions for the continuance of the sharecropping system in the South.

Rogers confessed that the company can made profit by operating farms on a share-crop basis that by selling the huge tracts of farmland it has secured by foreclosure. Tenants on Metropolitan Life land have a one-year lease.

Atlanta Ga Journal
March 4, 1940

Crackerland In Washington

Senate Group Studies Problem Of Southern Farm Labor

BY RALPH SMITH

The Atlanta Journal Bureau,
Mayflower Hotel,
Washington, D. C., March 4.

THE MOST, if not the only comforting impression, that lingers over the weekend, of a Senate committee hearing on the proposal to limit parity payments (if any) to farmers unless they share with tenants, is that the Southern Tenant Farmers Union supporting the scheme, belies its name. The attitude, the demands and, yes, the ignorance of the petitioners were foreign to any considerable number of tenant farmers in the Southeast.

Consider, for example, the insistence of J. R. Butler, president of the Union, that farm labor be paid 25 cents an hour, and the assertion of others that only two federal agencies—WPA and FSA—meet the approval of the union. As a matter of fact, they contended that the Works Progress Administration is "too difficult."

The union representative told the subcommittee on agriculture that the AAA controls the state committees, the state committees, in turn, control the county committees, the county agents control the county committees and the landlords control the county agents. It is all a conspiracy—a wheel within a wheel—calculated and designed to oppress and rob the tenants . . . "and parity payment checks should be mailed directly to the tenants, lest they never get them."

Labor Cost on a Bale of Cotton

Members of the committee heard the testimony in silence until President Butler insisted on a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour for day labor in the cotton fields.

"Do you have an idea how much labor it takes to make a bale of cotton?" Senator Bilbo, of Mississippi, broke in. "Here is a Government report showing that 250 hours are required to produce a bale of cotton. At 25 cents an hour that would mean $62.50 a bale for labor alone. How can you square that with $40 a bale for cotton?"

President Butler allowed as he "disagreed with the Government," and proceeded to glorify the Farm Security Administration as the only fereral agency that is doing anything to improve the status of the tenant farmers.

"FSA clients," he said, in effect, "get along fairly well because they have meat in the cellar, canned vegetables in the pantry . . . and everything would be lovely if day labor were paid a minimum of 25 cents an hour."

Union Centers in Memphis

The Southern Tenant Farmers Union apparently radiates from Memphis. President Butler testified that he is a resident of that city, but taught school "for a spell" in Arkansas.

By way of emphasizing the plight of tenant farmers in that section he recounted in lurid details stories of former tenants feeding from garbage cans in Memphis, because they were not permitted on farms except in cotton-chopping and cotton-picking seasons.

He told of what he called "doodlum books" that are sold for $10 and are good in the stores. They are issued in payment for labor, "usually," he said, "with coupons for the first and last dollar detached.

He described and denounced what he called the "layby system of sharecropping," common, he said, in the cotton country. The croppers are run off the plantation and out of the county as soon as a crop is "laid by," while the landlords get the proceeds and the parity payments to boot.

From "Can to Can't"

The vice president of the Tenant Farmers' Union, F. R. Belton, a negro from Cotton Plant Ark., entertained the committee with original expressions which were easily grasped. Denouncing low wages as inimical to sharecropping in general, Belton asserted that the prevailing wage scale is 75 cents a day and the hours of labor "is from can to can't."

The Negro said his duties as vice president entailed activity only in the absence of the president. He added he had made a tour of the South and has "inspected" 60 county agents, three of whom he gave "fairly good consideration."

He testified that he owns one farm and rents another, thanks to the good Lord who blessed him and his wife with eight boys and three girls. Even so, he said, he found it necessary on occasion to hire day labor, for which, he added, he pays $1.50 and $2 as against the prevailing wage of 75 cents a day.

The curse of the age, he volunteered, is mechanized farming, because it enables landlords to dispense with day labor and sharecroppers, too. He asserted that on many farms the owners are destroying tenant houses.

Really Oppose Day Labor

The demand of the Tenant Farmers' Union for a 25-cent-an-hour minimum for day labor is not urged in the interest of day laborers. It represents the union's idea of how to remove competition and strengthen the position of tenant farmers and sharecroppers.

If a minimum wage should be fixed for farm labor, the union believes the landlords would be forced to encourage sharecropping and farm tenancy and that its members could demand greater concessions and, get this, a bigger and bigger share of parity farm benefits (if any) voted by the Government.

Once a minimum farm labor wage is fixed, the union next would turn its attention to the regulation and restriction of mechanized farming in such manner as to perpetuate sharecropping and tenancy in the agricultural picture of the South.

Sharecroppers Tell of Terror At Washington Conference; Rev. Whitfield Is Speaker

Louisiana Delegate Tells Of Flagrant Violation Of Wage and Hour Law

Takes Pot Shot at Senator Bilbo

WASHINGTON.— (ANP) — Stories of unbelievable cruelty, unjust treatment, hardships usually associated with pioneers in a barren land, were the stories told Tuesday night when some 25 sharecroppers, here for a two-day conference with government officials, met at Pierce hall so they could further plan for the betterment of their fellows in the benighted and Klux-ridden Southland.

White and black they stood together and sang the songs which they have transcribed into labor songs, the old Negro shouts and hymns which now exhort workers to organize and unionize against a common enemy, the farmer-landlord.

Confronted with these hardy unfortunates, their stories rang true as one after another, they recounted highlights of their miserable existence for the benefit of those who had never seen a sharecropper. And until you see a sharecropper and hear his humorous, pathetic story, no amount of reading can adequately express the plight of these folk.

"People have to learn to lead themselves in the South," he said. "This is the first time in the history of thec ountry any delegation of this kind and size has been to Washington. And it is not an effort to put the government on the spot. Government officials as a whole have been fine with one exception.

"We are trying to organize three groups. First, the migratory workers of whom there are now 40,000 on strike; second, the sugar-beet workers in the Rocky Mountain area; third, the larger group in the South engaged in agricultural problems.

"Because of certain officials in the Farm Security administration, there have been no evictions this year like there were last January."

From East Texas, Mrs. Mollie Robinson, of Rust county, a frail, dark brown skinned woman, seemingly unequal to the task to which she set herself, was the next speaker.

"The problem of the South needs immediate attention," she said. "Tenant farmers, sharecroppers and farm laborers are being swept from farms to relief. Farmers are dispensing with their services rapidly. Families which formerly worked the farms are being supplanted by tractors and machinery."

The first meetings held by this group were held in the thickest woods late at night when no white person would be around to tell the sheriff or the landlords.

"Landlords were trying to find ways to frame Negroes and to keep them on the farms at low wages," said Mr. Hart. "They fought against the WPA employment of Negroes so they could work the farms for 40 and 50 cents per day."

On several occasions, Mr. Hart declared the sheriff of the county threatened his life.

Ed Clark, of Louisiana, told of the flagrant violation of the wage and hours acts in his section of the country, where the minimum wage for cane field workers was $1.50 for a nine-hour work day. Bosses paid Negro workers from 75c to 80c per day and told them they ran their business and no government could come in and tell them what to do. Whenever the union sought to aid these workers, stool pigeons told bosses who represented the unions.

"We stopped buying at their store they call the commissary, but we call it the robbersary, because that's all they do. And we organized our own store which is now a going concern," Clark asserted.

Mr. Clark declared that workers in his state had never received any government checks for cotton conservation and when he told them they could get paid for it, they immediately wrote to Washington, which in the past had been forbidden by the white bosses on pain of eviction and even worse fates. Upon receipt of their checks from the department of agriculture, irate white bosses began taking steps for the eradication of the labor agitators.

Miss Elvira Dale, 63-year-old delegate from Arkansas, said white folk in her section of the country think more of their dogs than they do of their Negro citizens. She has seen hundreds of grown Negroes in Crittenden county, she declared, who couldn't buy the cheapest dress and had to wear dresses made of flour sacks. They had little food, and even now the county and many others in the state are desperately in need of relief. Mrs. Dale declared her life was threatened when it was learned she was going to Washington to confer with the officials there.

The principal speaker, however, was the Rev. Owen Whitfield, who won fame in the Missouri sharecroppers eviction last year when he led a demonstration of some 1,700 white and black sharecroppers.

"The bosses play the whites against the Negroes and the Negroes against the white" he said. "When one demands rights they are replaced by the other group and vice versa. I used to be considered a good preacher some ten years ago, but I preached a different kind of gospel from the kind I now preach. I am preaching now about a present God in the hearts and minds of men—seeking to build a heaven here on earth. Heaven is a state of mind representing peace—hell is misery. I have stopped building or trying to build a city beyond the sky. Instead of looking toward the sky for help, I am going to look reactionaries in the face. There is no one here in Washington to represent us, so we came here ourselves. We want no more puny excuses or mimeographed letters. We are going to hand our troubles on the White House door.

"Why is there a talk of surplus commodity when there are 15,000,000 folks starving? I hear they are going to build a laboratory to try to determine new uses for cotton. That isn't needed. There are enough folks down South needing a plain cotton dress, cotton overalls, cotton jumpers, to use more cotton than we got stored away."

Taking a pot-shot at Theodore Bilbo, the U. S. senator from Mississippi, Mr. Whitfield declared that Bilbo's days were numbered.

"I worked on a plantation ten years to be a head nigger. That's what they call them down South, head-niggers. I used to get up before anyone else on the plantation to get in good favor with my boss. I didn't know any better. But as I look back and see what a fool I was, I regret I didn't know any better in those days.

Mr. Whitfield recounted the difficulties the sharecroppers had after the crops were in and they had to search around for food, the store on the plantation being closed to them. Loud laughter greeted some of his witty sallies and the audience was deeply moved by his accounts.

Dr. Alexander's office lent all possible help to these unfortunates and after devoting an entire day to the program planned the delegates were then received

Negroes On FSA Farms In Midsouth Show Progress

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb.—Low income Negro farm families in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi are making excellent progress in their drive to become self-sufficient, T. Roy Reid, regional director of the Farm Security Administration, said today.

After studying the records made by the Negro families on the Rehabilitation program, the Tenant Purchase Program and the Resettlement program, Mr. Reid pointed out that the Negro farmers are taking full advantage of their opportunities to become self-supporting.

"Reports from all over the region indicate that the Negro farm families are learning rapidly the importance of living-at-home," he said. "They are growing enough feed and their pantries and smoke houses are fuller in many instances than they have ever been before.

"These families are learning, many for the first time, how important it is to make farm and home plans and how essential it is for them to follow that plan and keep a record of what they are doing on their farms. Just how well they are doing this is seen in the way that they are repaying their rehabilitation loans.

"One of the most successful rental projects in the region is the Clarksdale Homestead Association in Crittenden County, Ark., where 122 low income Negro farm families are now located.

"The annual report of the project shows that the families have already paid a total of $25,403.15 of the $27,948.60 which was borrowed. The total amount due at the end of 1939 was $23,108.10. A number of these families has already paid its loans in full. The balance is not due until the fall of this year.

"Eighty-eight of the families paid their loans in full. Twenty-four families have paid their current notes or more and only 10 families are delinquent. Those delinquent failed to pay because their crops were planted in areas that were flooded during the floods last year.

"A total of 1521 bales of cotton was grown and it brought $75,911.37. The families have received more than $10,000 after their expenses had been paid. The total net income will be more than $15,000. The medical association paid all of its bills and there was a 60 per cent reduction in sickness on the project.

"Another side of the progress picture is seen in the increase of the live-at-home program. When the families came on the program last year, they had an average of 20 quarts of canned food per family. At the beginning of this year—1940—they had a average of 75 quarts per person. Most of the families had meat in their smoke houses or had it to kill.

A survey in Simpson county, Miss., showed that Negro farmers on the rehabilitation program in that county had made outstanding progress last year. The survey showed that they increased their cash income from $216 to $330; home grown food from $174.11 to $493.85; their net income from $315.38 to $733.09, and their net worth from $525.61 to $961.68.

Before they came on the program they operated an average of 41 acres and last year they had 71 acres. In 1938 they canned 84 quarts of food and last year 360; in 1938, 320 pounds of meat and last year, 967 pounds. There are 6.6 persons in each family.

Typical of the progress that the Negro families are making is seen in the record of Mr. and Mrs. George Davis of Bolton, Miss. Mr. Davis came on the program in 1935 after he had lost his mule and couldn't get another from his merchant. He borrowed $186.80 for a mule and furnish. He was able to pay back that year $169.53, leaving a balance of $17.27.

In 1936 he borrowed $140 and paid it all back with interest. In 1937 his loan was only $85, which was paid. In 1938 the loan was $152.50 and was repaid except $26.64. Last year he borrowed $216.45 and has sufficient cotton to pay off his total debt to the FSA.

"When this family applied to the FSA for assistance, they had no stock. They have two work animals, five cows and eight hogs now Mrs. Davis has made a noticeable improvement in her part of this work. She has 60 hens and 40 baby chicks. In 1935 she canned only 16 quarts of food and in 1939 she had a variety of fruits and vegetables in her 260-jar pantry.

"Some of the families are adding to their income through handicraft work," Mr Reid pointed out. "Take the case of John H. Clayton of Tippo, Miss., who increased his cash income with the sale of cotton baskets and a few fire-side wood baskets."

During the summer and fall of last year, he made 225 cotton baskets and six fire-side baskets. The cotton baskets were sold to the Henderson Baird Company of Greenwood for 65 cents apiece and the friends baskets brought from $1 to $1.50.

The income from all the baskets was $152.75 and the expense of material that he had to buy and the delivery of the baskets cost him $31.50, leaving him a net profit of $121.25.

"We are proud of the records that the Negro families are making—they are showing in most instances that all they need is an opportunity and a little guidance, to become self-supporting," he said.

10,000 Cotton Pickers Needed For Harvest In This Section

OCT 4 1940

King Cotton is losing some of his subjects to Mars.

With fields white in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, pickers are scarce because many have found work in expanding defense industries.

Memphis Employment Center, City-Federal agency, is calling urkently for 10,000 cotton pickers to go daily to nearby plantations, returning to the city at night.

Good hand can earn

A good hand can earn from $1.50 to $2 a day, according to E. M. Norment, district manager of the Employment Center.

Pickers should report to W. W. Worthington at the farm placement office at 815 Arkansas near Harahan Bridge. White as well as negro workers are wanted. They will be busy at least until Christmas.

Trucks meet the pickers at the bridge about 5 a.m., carry them to work, and bring them back at sunset. Everybody gets his wages at the end of each day and some planters even pay off in the field as the sacks are weighed.

Trucks To Neighborhoods

If as many as 40 or 50 pickers live in one neighborhood in Memphis, a truck will be sent there to get them and will return them there at night.

Pickers ages run from 10 to 80.

Most of them take their lunches, which are not furnished, but the plantations usually supply plenty of ice water.

If you want to go a-picking, just be at the bridge—815 Arkansas—early in the morning. That's all you have to do—no red tape.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

GENERAL

Sharecropper Leader A Hard-Hitting Cleric With Plenty Of Umph!

By JOSEPH WOODS

HE'S one of those partial-impartial fellows, but you always know what he's going to do next—eventually, anyway. That's the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, the Baptist preacher who compares the CIO to the orderly set-up of the Methodist church (AME), and not to the Baptist.

Neither does he straddle the fence when it comes to the sharecroppers. He's definitely for them. And, more than that he's definitely with them.

Simply, he's Sharecropper No. 1, and proud of it, too.

Although a 'cropper for the last 35 years, he had his choice of whether or not to be one of the lowest order. In 1937 he owned a six-room house and 53 acres in La Forge, Mo., where he and the missus and their 11 children lived in comparative comfort.

The Government makes it possible for certain ambitious — and lucky— 'croppers to own their homes and a few acres of land. Rev. Whitfield was one of these.

But there were others who hadn't been so fortunate. They came to the clergyman and asked him to do something for them. He did, and left LaForge very shortly—just two jumps ahead of a lynch mob.

Kirkwood, a suburb of St. Louis, was his next stop. He transferred ownership of his La Forge home to another man—a Negro, by the way, who would be less demonstrative.

Completely Homeless

Now, completely homeless, he was much better prepared to organize the 'croppers. It sort of cleared his conscience.

"I couldn't sit home in ease no way while so many people around me were suffering," he said, as he swung in a swivel chair at 1511 Race street, local headquarters of the CIO.

He didn't take full advantage of the chair to swing back, fold his hands across his stomach, and throw his feet up on the desk. But he had given the impression he would, when he said he was the pastor of a big Baptist church in Cape Girardeau, Mo."

Instead he leaned forward, arms on the desk, and unconsciously revealed his bald spot—a smooth avenue from his forehead to the back of his head.

The remaining hair forms the letter O. It could stand for "unafraid," "unconquerable," or "uncompromising." (He proved that it stood for all three Monday night at the Stephen Girard Hotel.)

He smiled when he said he's the international vice president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America. This union, an affiliate of the CIO, is the backbone of the sharecroppers.

And it is as the 'croppers recognized leader that he has lead a delegation of Negro and white sharecroppers thru the North, where they are seeking funds to relieve the sufferings of these homeless farmers.

Originally comprised of 27 members (representing Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Mississippi, and Louisiana), the delegation now has only five. The others returned home after the visit to Washington.

Is Recognized Leader

In a high nasal voice, unmarked by the Missouri accent (he was born 45 years ago in Jonestown, Mo.) he explained the "abuses and chiselling of the landlords (as he terms it)."

"The landlords have what is called 'soil building lagoons' of so many acres. The Government pays him an average of $20 an acre NOT to work this land.

"For instance, if there're 20 acres in the soil building lagoon, the landlord or tenant farmer (both 'above' the sharecropper) receives $400 from the Government.

"This money he is supposed to share with the 'croppper, according to the amount of 'trust' in crops the 'cropper has with the landlord. If, for instance, the 'cropper has 50 per cent in trust he is supposed to receive $200 of the $400. But, instead—

Keeps Money—Evicts 'Croppers

"The landlord evicts the sharecropper, and keeps the $400 to buy machinery, evicts the 'cropper and—

"Hires him back as a day laborer at an average salary of 75 cents a day, provided the male member of the family AND his wife AND his seven to 11 children work together.

"And the average day is from sun up to sundown—about 14 hours."

All signs of humor had left the Reverend's face, and his voice, despite its nasal quality, was pleasant, and earnest.

"And now, the situation has grown even worse," he was saying. "There have sprung up what is known as absentee landowners.

"These absentee owners are big insurance companies in New York, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Kansas (Mo.) and Philadelphia.

"Well, these companies come in and buy up a lot of land and run farms on the same scale as the landowners had done — if not worse. They already own about 50 or 60 per cent of the land. And they are giving some of the big landowners themselves trouble.

"The agents of these companies, in some cases, are harsher than the smaller landlord had been. They have the power to evict, and they make use of it," he said.

The Reverend leaned heavily on the desk. And he didn't have to gesture with his hands His voice was forceful enough without it.

And what do the sharecroppers use for money?

Well, the landowners manufacture their money They call it brozine, and is made out of brass.

It is issued on credit basis and is used only at the landowners's store where groceries are usually 20 per cent higher.

He claims the sharecroppers have both taxation and representation, but they take part in only the taxation. They pay a poll tax but on the receipt is written "not to be used for voting," provided they can vote.

The 'croppers aren't protesting the national, regional or state committees but just the county agents, who are usually the landowners, he explained.

Says Negro Sharecroppers Are Better Physically

Iowa City, Iowa—The Negro sharecropper of Mississippi are in better physical fitness than the white sharecroppers in the same state, according to Dr. D. B. Dill of the Harvard University fatigue laboratories.

Dr. Dill addressed delegates to the State University of Iowa's eleventh annual two-day physical education conference here June 13 and 14.

According to Dr. Dill, who poured together records on Harvard students, white and Negro sharecroppers and the ten best football teams in the country, no longer can the south be

"It's Live Birds We're Watching"



Rev. Owen Whitfield, in center of first row, said, Monday night: "Abraham Lincoln is dead but it's these live birds that watching." He and four other sharecroppers spent 2 days in this city, telling of horrors of sharecropper situation.

In front row, left to right, are: Blanche Fischer, Rev. Whitfield and Elvira Dodd. In rear row are Mrs. Whitfield and Harry Koger.

THE PLIGHT OF SHARECROPPERS

From Oklahoma comes the report that Attorney General Hurley of Arkansas in a statement to the press intimated that Negro sharecroppers fighting against eviction and mass starvation and against the open and violent robbery of their share of the crop by the landlords were "fifth columnists" and subversive elements.

We warned against this. We foresaw it in the very logic of things. To hide the robbery of black men and women, to silence their outcry against the poll tax and the denial of their constitutional rights, the spokesmen of the landlords will declare these loyal black Americans to be fifth columnists.

Let this be clear to all. No amount of war hysteria will stop black America from making a fight for democracy and true Americanism here at home. Now, as in the past, democracy begins here, Mr. Holt. Men who for centuries have deprived black men and white, too, for that matter, of the right to live like human beings, these are the fifth columnists. Their practices are un-American; their preachments subversive.

Let us be clear as to our definition. The "fifth column" is that group which by its denial of democracy and civil liberties destroys the foundation of Americanism and paves the way for fascism.

No Negro falls within that category. Denied democracy ourselves, we have nevertheless fought heroically that others might enjoy its blessings. Obviously as we fought we hoped that we would be among those who won. But we lost even when we gave the last full measure of our devotion to a cause and course we believed to be democratic.

We are against, unqualifiedly against, fifth columnists. But we declare those who seek to place the Negro in that position are not only alarmists but as well friends of the Ku Klux Klan and lynching, if not lynchers themselves. They are seeking to provoke further racial discord.

The "fifth column" in our country is not to be found among the dispossessed and the disfranchised, but amongst those who dispossess and disfranchise in the richest country in the world and in what should and can be the most progressive and democratic.

U. S. Reveals Farm Income From Crops Rose In 1939

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—(AP)—The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimated today farmers' total cash income in 1939 at $8,518,000,000 against $8,081,000,000 in 1938 and $9,111,000,000 in 1937. The figures included income from marketing commodity loans and Government payments.

Cash income from farm marketings and commodity loans in 1939 amounted to $7,711,000,000 against $7,599,000,000 in 1938. The gain resulted from increased income from crops. Income from livestock and livestock products was unchanged.

Government conservation payments, sugar act payments and parity price payments in 1939 were $807,000,000 against $482,000,000 in 1938.

"While income from crops in 1939 was nearly four per cent higher than in 1938," the bureau said, "it was nearly 10 per cent less than in 1936 and 16 per cent less than in 1937.

"The major crops showing increases in income were corn, potatoes, apples, peaches and pears. The major crops for which income was smaller were cotton lint, tobacco, sugar beets, and sugar cane."

Total income from corn was $326,000,000 against $269,000,000 a year earlier. Income from flax was more than twice as large as in 1938, while revenue from most other grains was about the same.

Marketings of cotton in 1939 were somewhat smaller so that in spite of higher prices, total income from cotton declined from $647,000,000 in 1938 to $609,000,000 in 1939.

Income from tobacco declined from $294,000,000 in 1938 to $264,000,000 in 1939 because lower prices more than offset increased marketings, the bureau said.

Cash farm income and Government payments by States in 1938 and 1939 included:

New York, $298,774,000 and $312,729,000; Maryland, $66,127,000 and $67,013,000; Virginia, $123,826,000 and $119,609,000; North Carolina, $235,903,000 and $237,005,000; South Carolina, $101,201,000 and $111,882,000; Georgia, $157,981,000 and $151,579,000; Florida, $108,221,000 and $122,085,000; Tennessee, $138,857,000 and $130,794,000; Alabama, $123,699,000 and $112,170,000; Mississippi, $173,293,000 and $166,961,000; Arkansas, $154,299,000 and $153,628,000; Louisiana, $126,409,000 and $133,868,000

All Parties Concerned Lose In Shifting Of Farm Tenants; Cost Is $100,000,000 Yearly

Survey By Agriculture Department Shows Approximately 1,000,000 Move Annually—Reasonable Security May Be Solution

By FRED BAILEY
United Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Shifting of farm tenants from place to place each year costs tenants and landlords more than $100,000,000, according to Agriculture Department estimates.

The department said a survey showed that approximately 1,000,000 tenants move each year. The cost ranged from $50 in Oklahoma to $150 each for the landlord and the tenant, the report on a survey showed.

Nearly one-half of all farmers are tenants or sharecroppers. In the South, from one-quarter to one-third of those move each year. In Northern states the percentage is somewhat smaller.

All Involved Lose

"All people in a community, including landlords, suffer the ill effects of this annual shifting of families from farm to farm, and in many instances from community to community," the department said.

A large majority of these moves probably were voluntary on the part of the tenants, the report said. But an increasing number are being forced by landlords to vacate or become day laborers on farms, it was said.

The department, under provision of the Bankhead-Jones Act, is endeavoring to assist as many capable and self-reliant farmers as possible to purchase their own farms. But funds are available to help only a fraction of those wanting to purchase.

"The most important phase of the (tenant) problem is in devising effective means of providing security of tenure for those who will continue as tenants and sharecroppers," the department said.

Reasonable Security Sought

It suggested a two-fold approach to the problem:

Every possible assistance must be given to capable and energetic tenants in acquiring and retaining ownership of farms.

Definite measures must be developed and applied to afford reasonable security on the land for those who are not able to achieve farm ownership.

The department, through its county agents and other employes, scattered throughout the Nation, is seeking to increase the length of farm leases to reduce the number of moves.

Last year the department supplied 8000 model leases to landlords and tenants. These leases are intended to prevent misunderstandings which frequently lead to moves.

Sea Island Cotton Seed Is In Demand

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 4.—The combination of frigid weather in Dixie and quota restrictions on upland cotton is reopening an old market for Florida farmers, according to Prof. Donald D. Bode, University of Tampa chemist and cotton seed expert.

This market results from an increased demand for sea island cotton seed, which can be produced most advantageously in Florida, isolated from contamination by the short staple varieties of the cotton belt.

Shortage for Shipment

Professor Bode's father, F. L. Bode of Memphis, recently came to Florida to purchase a carload of sea island seed for planting in land between the Mississippi and St. Francis Rivers near Parkin, Ark., and found a shortage of seed for out-of-state shipment.

At the present time, according to Professor Bode, the United States imports 200,000 bales of sea island cotton annually from Egypt, while only 2000 bales are produced in this country. There are no quota restrictions on the long staple variety.

"Cultivation of sea island cotton in this country has languished because of the prevalence of the boll weevil," Professor Bode said, "but the subzero weather experienced by the South this Winter will subdue this pest very effectively for the next few years.

"The latest available figures, for 1937, show that 11,700 acres of Florida land were planted to sea island cotton. There should be ample market for a 10-fold increase."

37 Cents a Pound

He pointed out that last year's crop of sea island cotton sold for 37 cents a pound, while upland cotton was bringing only 9 or 10 cents.

"The profits from raising sea island cotton are not as large as those from a vegetable crop," Professor Bode said. "However, there is more assurance of having something to sell because cotton is planted after the danger of frost has passed. Cotton thrives in slightly acid soil, which in Florida should be fertilized with acid phosphate.

"The boll weevil can be controlled by application of calcium arsenate, spread from airplanes, hand packs or from mule back."

Helpful to Arkansas

Planting sea island cotton is helping solve a sociological problem in Arkansas, according to Professor Bode. Since the acreage that may be grown is unlimited, planters are turning to this crop to furnish employment for tenant farmers and sharecroppers, taking them off relief, and incidentally making a profit off land that otherwise would lie idle.

"As this move gains momentum, more and more planters will look to Florida to furnish seed of the pure Seabrook strain," the professor declared.

Cold May Have Killed Mississippi Oat Crop

STATE COLLEGE, Miss., Feb. 4. Fear that the Mississippi oat crop has been killed by extreme cold weather was expressed today by L. I. Jones, state extension agronomist, who said that oats can rarely survive weather lower than 15 degrees.

Mr. Jones said farmers should inspect their oats now and ascertain if they have been killed. While it is not a general practice to do so, there are instances where farmers have been able to get in to their fields and run a light roller over the oats soon after a freeze in order to put them back in contact with the soil. Rollers may be made out of empty oil drums or light poles. The roller should not be too heavy.

Should Replant

Where farmers find their oats are killed beyond recovery, they should replant immediately. Spring oats can be sown during the next 30 days over a large part of Mississippi, and if fertilized with 100 to 200 pounds of nitrate of soda or other nitrogen fertilizer, the latter part of March, they should make fairly good yields even though later. Fertilizing in the above manner for Fall oats is also recommended if any of them should survive.

Even though oats sown now may make a smaller yield than Fall sown oats, they will still be a profitable grain crop and can be kept for hay if it becomes apparent they will not mature grain. It is recommended that one of the early varieties be planted. Fulgrain, Fulghum, or Konota are good Spring oats. The later varieties like Nortex, Hastings, Appler, and Ferguson can be planted now, but the chances for disease and other hazards are greater than with early varieties. Mr. Jones explained.

Acreage Is Increased

Where farmers have grain drills, oats planted now can be seeded right on the old seed bed without additional preparation. Where they do not have grain drills, the seed can be sown by hand and disked lightly. At least 2½ bushels per acre should be planted.

According to reports received from county agents throughout Mississippi, farmers seeded last Fall 243,242 acres to oats, as compared to 98,700 in 1938. This is an increase of 246 per cent and is the largest acreage planted since 1919 when 278,000 acres were sown. Mississippi oats averaged 31 bushels per acre last year and when this yield can be obtained, they are more profitable than corn. Even though oats freeze occasionally, they have been

a surer grain crop during the past 25 years than corn.

Ample Feed For Stock Stressed To Farmers

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 4.—Next to food for the family, it is most important for farmers to grow ample feed for livestock, Horace C. Holmes, assistant University of Tennessee extension economist, said today.

"A sound feed program on most farms includes an abundance of good pasture and forage, but failure to plan ahead often results in a shortage of these feeds," he said. "Many farmers have found that by the use of lime, phosphate, manure and on some soils potash, the production of pasturage and hay crops has been more than doubled."

A good permanent pasture is the basis of an economical feed program and if properly prepared fenced and provided with shade and water will give excellent returns from land that would otherwise produce little. Supplementary pasture crops such as Sudan grass, rape, and lespedeza will add materially to the feed supply, he explained.

"The seeding of Fall grain on lespedeza sod offers a means of providing Winter pasture and Spring grain," Mr. Holmes said. "Vetch, Austrian peas, crimson clover and rye grass seeded alone or in combination with small grain may add greatly to the feed supply in addition to checking erosion and adding to the fertility of the soil."

Missouri Farm Products Bring Higher Prices

COLUMBIA, Mo., Feb. 4.—Prices received by Missouri farmers for their products were generally higher the middle of January than a month earlier, the United States Department of Agriculture reported today. All groups of commodities, except poultry products, made small gains.

For the country as a whole, the average of all prices received by farmers was 99 per cent of the 1910-14 average. This is the highest level of farm prices since January, 1938.

51 Cents for Corn

The average farm price of corn in Missouri on Jan. 15 was reported at 51 cents per bushel compared with 48 cents in December and 44 cents Jan. 15, 1939. Market prices of No. 2 yellow corn at Kansas City have advanced about two cents per bushel from the middle of the month to the week ending Jan. 27.

The average farm price of wheat received by Missouri farmers the middle of January was reported at 88 cents per bushel compared with 84 cents in December and 58 cent per bushel in January, 1939. Th price of No. 2 red Winter wheat a Kansas City has declined abou three cents per bushel during th last half of January.

Livestock prices received by Missouri farmers are slightly higher than in December and, with the exception of hogs and horses, are higher than a year ago.

The average price received by Missouri farmers for hogs on Jan. 15 was $5.10 per hundredweight compared with $4.90 in December and $7.10 a year ago. Hog prices at Kansas City have declined about 10 cents per hundred during the latter part of the month.

Beef Price Steady

The average price received by Missouri farmers for beef cattle was reported at $7.90 per hundredweight on Jan. 15, which was the same as the December average and 20 cents higher than was reported in January a year ago. The average price of beef steers at Chicago has declined about 10 cents per hundredweight during the last two weeks in January. The average price of stocker and feeder cattle at Kansas City has declined about 30 cents per hundredweight during the same period.

The average Missouri farm price of lambs was reported at $8.10 on Jan. 15. This was an advance of 20 cents from December and was 50 cents higher than last year. Fat lamb prices at Chicago have declined sharply during the last two weeks.

Kroger Stores Will Join In Pork Sale Campaign

To help remove the huge surplus of pork now facing producers, Kroger stores will participate in the "National Economy Pork Sale," sponsored by the National Livestock Marketing Association and other farm organizations, William C. Smashey, general manager, said yesterday.

The first sale began Thursday and will end Saturday. The second will begin Feb. 29 and close March 9. During both sales Kroger markets will feature pork and pork products, Mr. Smashey said.

Hope to Increase Demand

"Pork is one of the most important sources of farm income, not only in the Corn Belt, but all over the country," Mr. Smashey explained. "For this reason it is cause for alarm when the hog market gets out of line. By pushing pork and pork products at this time we hope to increase demand for them, bring about fair returns to swine producers and prevent demoralization of the market on other livestock."

The Department of Agriculture estimates the 1939 pig crop at 84,302,000 head, an increase of 13,201,000 over that of the previous year. In addition, the situation has become even more serious because the war has deprived hog raisers of important European markets.

Pork advertisements carrying the producer-consumer campaign emblem will be placed by the Kroger Company in more than 1250 daily and weekly newspapers throughout the company's territory, according to Albert H. Morrill, president of the firm. He said the food chain store industry as a whole will use space in more than 8000 newspapers to tell the pork story to 25,000,000 readers.

Other Sales Successful

Mr. Morrill explained that the event is one of more than 30 producer-consumer campaigns on surplus farm products in which Kroger and other chain store companies have participated in the past three years. During a similar campaign on beef in 1936 Kroger sales of this product were increased 14 per cent. Early in 1937 he company's participation in a amb campaign resulted in a 73 per ent increase in movement of lam n Kroger stores.

Plight Of Negro Workers Discussed

daily world / Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(SNS)— Outwardly, the old plantations that flourished for one-hundred and fifty years from Virginia to Texas have changed. The general characteristics, however, have remained the same. There is still large-scale ownership of the land and of the tools of production. Plentiful and cheap labor forces continue, with white farm tenant an dlaborer families in the Southeast now exceeding Negro families similarly employed. Sharecropping keeps alive many of the evils of the old plantation economy.

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There are some of the highlights of "The Plantation South Today" a phamplet just issued in the Division of Research of the Federal Work Projects Administration. Written by A. J. Woowter, Jr. and A. E. Fisher, this publication is the fifth in a series designed to present simple, factual information on social problems of general interest. "The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy", by Dr. Charles E. Johnson, of Fisk University with Drs. Edwin R. Embree and W. W. Alexander, is listed among eleven other books making up the bibliography of "The Plantation South Today."

OWNERSHIP CONCENTRATED

"In true plantation area land ownership is highly concentrated" the WPA social problems pamphlet says, "and the proportion of tenants among farm operators is high. Incomes in such areas are greater per capita than in other Southern Agricultural countries, but lower than in other farming sections of the Nation. There are comparatively few urban and village dwellers and few non-agricultural industries. Families are large but schools are relatively small and poor, especially for Negroes. Health services are markedly deficient. Living standards are near the minimum level."

Problems of relief and rehabilitation have seriously effected the rural South, particularly in the cotton belts. Large families among tenants have been considered advantageous by the plantation landlords chiefly because the younger members constitute a cheap labor supply.

During the 1920-1930 decade about 250,000 persons composing the excess labor supply migrated each year to regions where the industrial demand was expanding. After 1930 the industrial labor market began to shrink. Migration restricted the demand for labor and intensified the problems of relief and rehabilitation, the latest WPA pamphlet explains.

The various types of landlord-tenant arrangements which are often confused in the public's mind are made clear in "The Plantation South Today". Renters who rent land outright from the owners are the least dependent of the plantation workers. They receive all the proceeds of their crops with the exception of a fixed rent paid in cash or crops. Next in order of dependency are the share tenants.

These workers own their work stock and tools. They must usually be provided with food, fertilizer and a house by the owner of the plantation. Share tenants cultivate a fixed size of land and receive in return a share of the crop, usually more than one-half.

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"Still more dependent are the sharecroppers, who furnish the landlord nothing but their labor and must be provided with stock, tools, fertilizer, food and a house", the WPA publication says.

"They receive half their crop in return for working a tract of about 20 crop acres, but all advances made to them for half of the operating expenses, food and other necessities, are deducted, with interest, from their portion by the operator when the crop is sold. There are more of these sharecroppers than any other type of plantation labor. None of them have a legal claim on any improvements they make to the land or the buildings, and so they have little desire to conserve or improve them. What they do is drift from place to place, looking for better conditions some where else but usually finding that they are much the same or worse. At the bottom of the agricultural ladder are the wage hands, who are hired for a fixed wage, and the casual laborers, who are hired at peak seasons by the day."

Atlanta

"Even when croppers and share tenants clear anything on the year's farming, they usually exhaust their resources within a few months and are destitute again at the beginning of the crop year. The landlord has to advance them credit to finance the new crop and to provide for their living expenses until the crop is sold. The average tenant in 1937 was advanced $85 for his share of crop expenses and $104 to live on while the crop was maturing. Thus the average tenant borrowed around $200," the study continues.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

GENERAL

Away From The Farm? Why Not? Asks Chivers

Atlanta Daily World
4-6-40

By WALTER R. CHIVERS
Professor of Sociology at
Morehouse College

THE LAST FEDERAL census revealed the fact that there are now more people in urban areas than rural areas. This increase in urban population is due almost entirely to rural migration. All indications point toward a continued flow of rural population into urban centers. This movement away from southern farms, where the majority of Negroes live, was stimulated by the crumbling of the plantation economy.

Its main support, cotton, has lost so much of its worth in world markets that it is no longer profitable as a crop. The plantation operators in their struggle to ward off insolvency have begun to introduce machinery on their farms. The report to the President of the United States on **Economic Conditions of the South** states that,

"In certain sections there has been a tendency to revert to large plantations worked by machinery on an industrial basis. Tractors and gang plows are substituted for men and mules. This method of cutting operating costs also cuts the number of people needed for a given area of land or amounts of crops...No longer owners, tenants or croppers, the workers in these agricultural factories are more nearly day laborers — unskilled workers who can be hired one day and fired the next."

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASING

Unemployment is still increasing for the same reasons among the south's more than a million sharecropping families, one-third of whom are Negroes. The most disquieting fact is the force with which this situation is striking the younger and more virile members of the population.

The same report in referring to the nearly 3,000,000 young people who "matured into the 15-25 age group between 1930 and 1935 in the rural districts of 11 southeast states, stated that, "remaining are some 1,750,000 who stay in the farm home as casual laborers or as unemployed."

When cotton sagged and machinery entered, rural-farm Negroes lost their value to the large scale operators. This is true because the Negroes' mass farm efficiency was and is as unskilled laborers. These jobless, landless folk, many of whom were being left to shift for themselves for the first time were "on the loose". It was only natural that the younger and more aggressive of them would head for the cities. They were strong and able-bodied, willing to work. If there were no jobs in the urban areas there was relief.

They had no assured way of knowing that each day the metropolitan centers need less and less unskilled labor. As a matter of fact, it is extremely doubtful whether or not the majority of them have ever thought in terms of being unskilled or skilled.

ALWAYS UNSKILLED

A further fact is that these Negroes had always been more or less unskilled — unskilled even in the ways of profitable cotton production. This lack of skill contributed heavily to the failure of cotton to be able to continue its meagre care of them after it reached the status of an industry.

When these migrants transferred to the urban areas they stepped literallly "out of the frying pan into the fire", for they had neither the vocational equipment nor the social techniques for surviving in a complicated metropolitan economy. They became a problem to the cities-at-large and Negroes in particular. They were cheaper workers tending to displace the higher priced urban Negroes. Their standards of living were lower, thereby reflecting upon the urban Negroes.

Even relief offered them more than they had back home. It was not much, but they were fleeing from less. Once in the city they were fascinated by its attractions. Numbers of the former farm people have told the writer in answer to a direct question as to whether or not they would go back home if they had an opportunity that they would be willing to go, if conditions were changed. Their definition of changed conditions included more comfortable houses, some sanitary conveniences, moving picture theatres, better schools, beauty parlors, and the like.

The second generation of these migrant rural families, like the second generation of foreign families, consider themselves urbanites. These young folk are out of the farm picture for good—they are a problem for the cities to solve.

MILLIONS YET ON FARM

There are, however, millions of Negroes still dwelling in rural areas and they probably should stay there. The majority of them might be persuaded to do so provided the agricultural leaders heed the advice of that sage, Howard Russell, when he recommends that they take the farm off the school platform and take it to the fields. It is one thing for these leaders to drive out into the country and lecture to farm groups or spend a week-end at their country places; it is quite another to don overalls and to work side by side with farmers giving practical demonstrations, or better, going to live in the country as the good neighbors of these folks, showing them by precept and example how to make farm life worth while.

The rural teachers have a part to play. Far too often they are city-bred folk with no other interest in rural folk than their monthly checks. They spend every possible week-end in the urban centers. The leaders in training teachers for rural areas need to put more emphasis upon educating rural born youth to go back home to teach the folk how to live interesting lives in the country.

The ministers also have an obligation. They are the real leaders of Negroes in rural areas. They need training and inspiration that will fit them for a social rural ministry. As trained leaders in rural church organization they could wield the greatest single influence toward making the rural communities attractive to their present inhabitants.

The writer recognizes a conflict between the time-honored and modern concepts of agriculture. It is the slavish resistance of these traditional concepts to change and the fact that many of the most aggressive and earnest of the present Negro leaders in

NATIONAL SCENE

Mechanized Labor National Problem As Negro Workers Become Migrants

COLORED LANDOWNERS IN TEXAS PREFER TO USE MEXICAN LABOR

ON THE ONE HAND - - -

WASHINGTON, April—(ANP)—Menacing the conditions of certain sections of the United States, migratory workers are fast becoming as much a problem to the government as the mooted question of unemployment and relief—and the migratory problem is not confined alone to whites.

Thousands of Negroes now are on the move and have been forced by mechanized labor to leave their former homes to seek work elsewhere.

FLORIDA has in the past few months become the haven on the Eastern coast for workers driven from their homes in South Carolina and Georgia by the wheels of progress in the form of mechanized labor.

TEXAS, especially the fertile Brazos valley, is another section which is looked upon with favor by these "citizen refugees."

CALIFORNIA JITTERY

CALIFORNIA, long the goal of many migratory workers, has become jittery and now issues a statement of fear, fear that the Negro workers who are seeking relief and employment may become a much greater problem than the other migratory workers seeking entry into the state.

For years, it is reported by officials who know, the panhandle sections of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, have been cultivated by mechanized labor, huge tractors and other machines doing the work. And every time a tractor is put into operation, some eight families are thrown out of work and off the farms.

This practice, now becoming general in the eastern areas is sending into Florida hundreds of Negro families, seeking seasonal work. At first the attitude toward the Negro is one of disdain and fear. This soon wears off when it is found that the Negroes seek only work and do not displace any other folks at work.

Florida to Build Camps

Then they are finally accepted as a necessary part of the picture, but the conditions have grown so bad in the past few months, the government has found it necessary to step in to provide some accommodations for these Negro migratory workers. To that end, it is planned to build two camps in Florida, in the southern section of the state, both of them for Negro workers, and one for white workers.

No accurate account of the number of Negro migratory workers is available, but it is a fact that they are leaving their homes in large numbers for non-existent work in Florida.

Prefer Mexican Workers

Negro landowners prefer Mexican labor because they have less difficulty with them, the Mexican has no ideas about labor organizations and work for less money than Negroes. This has been a large factor in keeping Mexicans employed while Negroes are idle.

California fears that when Florida reaches the saturation point, hungry Negro families, droves of them traveling in the same jalopies that made the "Grapes of Wrath" a living thing, will find their way through the Gulf states across to California.

ON THE OTHER HAND -

INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE, Ga., April — (By W. A. Huggins for ANP)—Why is it that in spite of low farm incomes, high cost of living, low market prices, and many other adverse circumstances, hundreds of Negro farmers throughout the state are able to make a comfortable living, own their homes, educate their children, and become respectable citizens?

Ben Halcomb of Baldwin county has a farm consisting of 500 acres of which he is the owner. He has built a modern home on his farm, barns and smoke houses. There is enough food and feed stuff on hand to take care of the family and live stock needs. Milk cows, chickens, hogs, and a year-round garden take care of the family needs in addition to supplying some of the markets and his neighbors.

In Bibb County, R. L. Woolfolk is another farmer who has accomplished a great deal. From his 680 acre farm he has been able to make it pay for itself. There is food in abundance to care for the family needs. He furnishes the local markets there with vegetables the year round from his garden.

William Adams, a Brooks county farmer, is the owner of a 500-acre farm. Erosion has been checked, a fine crop rotation system is practiced from year to year and he is living at home. From the road one can see any number of hogs hogging off green feed, and down the hill further milk cows, feeder steers, and other live stock grazing on some of the finest pastures in that section.

Best All-Round Farmer

Eddie Wilson, of Bullock county, has a nice farm. He was the winner in the Atlanta Constitution plant to prosper contest as being the best all-round Negro farmer in the state. He took up the mortgage on his father's-in-law farm immediately after he married and is now the owner of this 200-acre farm. There is an abundance of food to take care of the family and live stock needs.

Wesley Brigham's 200-acre farm in Burke county is a model farm. Brigham is the owner of this place. He states that this year-round garden made it possible for him to become the owner of this farm.

Up in Crawford county is Waymond Miller who is the owner of a 320-acre farm. He has built a modern home on this place, has modern farm machinery and food in abundance to care for the family and live stock needs. He is furnishing the local markets with farm products from his farm.

Meat For Packing Plants

Peter Barlo, of Doughtery county, has a 250-acre farm. He furnishes the meat packing plants in that section with cattle raised on his farm. He raises plenty of feed stuff to sell and saves enough to care for family needs. There is a hammer mill on this farm which crushes foid for the live stock. He also furnishes this same type of service to his neighbors.

Iverson Ward, of Greene county, is an outstanding farmer in that section. He has a 300-acre farm and is doing a great job. On this farm, one can find a home nicely equipped, well built barns and smoke houses, milk cows, hogs, chickens, a year-round garden, and food in abundance . . . Already there is plenty of green feed in the fields being hogged off.

Mach Crawford of Green county, rented the same farm from 1910 to 1937. He stated that he had paid $4200 for rent during these 27 years. The place rented only sold for $1300. Recently Crawford bought 106 acres of land. During the last three years, a house has been built, well dug, barn, smoke house, out houses, and garage zuilt. Taxes have been paid and he owes only $70 on this entire farm.

——Cooking School May 1, 2, 3——

Delegates From Six Cotton States Tell of Murders, Peonage

They Seek Aid From Uncle Sam "To Keep From Starving and to Keep a Decent Shelter Over Their Heads"; Address by Whitfield is Highlight of Conference

Twenty-eight sharecroppers from Dixie, representatives of 60,000 kindred souls in the farm tenant area of these United States, came to Washington this week to ask Uncle Sam to help them appreciate American democracy more by aiding in keeping them from starving and "keeping a decent shelter over their heads."

They were called here Monday for a two-day cotton conference sponsored by the CIO'S United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, and to confer with officials of the Federal Housing, Work Projects and Social Security Administrations.

They brought with them true stories of incidents that make chattel slavery look highly tame by comparison. They told tales of murders, of threats, of intimidations. How one youth in Alabama was framed and almost sent to prison, how one aged woman in Arkansas was flogged to death, how "Klukers" marched on union members' camp meetings, killing and terrorizing — all this and more was described by those 'croppers from the southland.

New Spirit Seen

But 'neath it all, one could read a resolute determination a new kind of fighting spirit, a spirit that makes the efforts of many of our so-called "educated" leaders seem ingloriously selfish and insignificant.

At a public meeting, Tuesday night, at Pierce Hall, Fifteenth and Harvard Streets, Northwest, one woman fro mArkansas told a mixed audience how she and a friend, Mrs. Eliza Nolan, had made up their minds that they were going to stand up for their rights. They sought a new deal for their fellow 'croppers in their area, and demanded WPA relief, which they weren't getting. They took an active hand in unionizing, under the CIO.

"Liza was whipped to death," the speaker said. "But that ain't going to stop me. I don't mind dying. Neither did poor old Liza. They told me that if I came to Washington to attend this meeting, that I better not come back to Arkansas. Well, I'm here. And I aim to go back to Arkansas too. This cause is worth dying for, if necessary. We're all going to fight till we gets what's right for us."

She told how 'croppers in her neighborhood usually turned a deaf ear to their pleas, or tossed them back to the mercy of the landlords.

Rev. Whitfield Speaks

The highlight of Tuesday's public meeting was the address by the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, state secretary of the Missouri Agricultural Council and international vice president of the UCAPAWA.

The Rev. Mr. Whitfield, himself a sharecropper all his life, told a highly interested audience: "We're learning how big fools we have been. They used to tell us only white men could come to Washington. They won't let us vote in the South, where we could elect our own Senators who could come here to argue for us. Well, they've built a lot of highways stretching from all points of the South to Washington and doggone it, we're going to use 'em and come here and present our own cases. We're going to get what we want even if we have to bang petitions on the White House door."

Hitting the core of the so-called race problem in America, the Rev. Mr. Whitfield said: "They taught us to hate white folks. And they taught hatred among whites for us. By keeping us battling and hating each other, the rich planters, landlords and 'keepers of the South' thereby kept us from organizing for peace. They said Negroes would never stick together and 'poor white trash' would never follow a Negro leader, anyhow.

Both Races Unite

"But we've shown the world it can be done. Today, throughout the Southland white and colored workers are organizing, and together they're fighting each other's battles. We know now that that's the only way America will ever be saved from itself and real democracy become everlasting."

He lambasted the type of gospel Negro preachers have been using for lo, these many years.

"We preach about the beautiful lands in the sky," the Rev. Mr. Whitfield continued, "and the chariots of gold and heavenly bliss that will be ours when we die. But at last we're junking that kind of stuff and learning a new kind of philosophy. We know now that a heaven on earth is just as essential as a heaven in the sky. We've been led to preach and pray for those things that may happen after we die and meanwhile to overlook the just as important things here on earth."

Donald Anderson, white, international president of the UCAPAWA flayed existing conditions in the South and politicians who smugly and conveniently "looked the other way" when those problems were brought to their attention.

Hosie Hart, of Dadeville, Ala., CIO organizer, told of death threats against him and his relatives and activity among the Ku Klux Klan in trying to scare the 'croppers from unionizing.

"We had to meet in the woods or sneak into some member's cabin at night to discuss our problems," said Hart, "but we're winning out despite the Kluxers. We ain't afraid of these Kluxers no more. And they know it. We have black and white workers organized down there and we're going to keep on organizing and fighting for ourselves.

The UCAPAWA seeks:

Government action to end wholesale evictions occurring in December and January yearly of sharecroppers; action by the Farm Security Administration and Federal Housing Administration to insure decent shelter in the winter months; winter relief to keep families from starving; amending laws, particularly AAA, to give sharecropper full legal sharing in benefit (crop control) checks; to provide written contracts between sharecroppers and landlords, to fix a living wage.

SHARECROPPERS TELL PLIGHT AT MEETING HELD AT CAPITOL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (A. N. P.—Stories of unbelievable cruelty, unjust treatment, hardships usually associated with pioneers in a barren land, were the stories told Tuesday night when some 25 sharecroppers here for a two days conference with government officials, met at Pierce hall so they could further plan for the betterment of their fellows in the benighted and Klux-ridden Southland.

White and black, they stood together and sang the songs which they have transcribed into labor songs, the old Negro shouts and hymns which exhort workers to organize and unionize against a common enemy, the farmer-landlord.

Confronted with these shabby unfortunates, their stories rang true as one after another they recounted highlights of their miserable existence for the benefit of those who had never seen a sharecropper. And until you see a sharecropper and hear his humorous pathetic story, no amount of reading can adequately express the plight of these folk.

Don Henderson, International President of the UCAPAWA said:

"People have to learn to learn themselves in the South," he said "This is the first time in the history of the country any delegation of this kind and size has been to Washington. And it is not an effort to put the government on the spot. Government officials as a whole have been fine with one exception.

"We are trying to organize three groups. First, the migratory workers of whom there are now 40,000 on strike; second, the sugar-beet workers in the Rocky Mountain area; third the larger group in the South engaged in agricultural problems.

"Because of certain officials in the Farm Security administration, there have been no evictions this year like there were last January."

From East Texas, Mrs. Mollie Robinson, of Rust county, a frail dark brown skinned woman, seemingly unequal to the task to which she set herself, was the next speaker.

"The problem of the South needs immediate attention," she said, "tenant farmers, sharecroppers and farm laborers are being swept from farms to relief. Farmers are dispensing with their services rapidly. Families which formerly worked the farms are being supplanted by tractors and machinery."

From Tallapoosa county, Alabama, Josie Hart, a brave organizer, whose son had been framed on a highway robbery charge and sentenced to 15 years in penitentiary, was also a speaker. He told of the threats of the KKK and made his audience roar when he told of the activities of the white-sheeted mobs.

"The Ku Klux Klan is watching the Negroes" he said they advised colored residents of the country, and these Negroes came back with the taunt, "The Negroes are watching the Ku Klux Klan, too!"

"The Kluxers raided two meetings," he went on. "On the first night, they whipped a few heads, that was all the damage they did. But on the second night they shot down a member of our meeting and put 33 of us in jail. That was all there was of us. But they didn't have nothing on us 'cept we was holding a meeting there in the woods, so they had to let us go."

The first meetings held by this group were held in the thickest woods late at night when no white person would be around to tell the sheriff or the landlords.

"Landlords were trying to find ways to frame Negroes and to keep them on the farms at low wages, said Mr. Hart." they fought against the WPA employment of Negroes so they could work the farms for 40 and 50 cents per day."

In several occasions, Mr. Hart declared the sheriff of the county threatened his life.

Ed Clark, of Louisiana, told of the flagrant violation of the wage and hours acts in his section of the country, where the minimum wage for cane field workers was $1.50 for a nine hour work day. Bosses paid

AROUND THE MIDSOUTH

The Southern Sharecroppers Union demanded last week a 40-cent hourly minimum wage for day labor and asked that the Old Labor Act be applied to all farm workers of 25 or more acres.

Negro workers from 75 to 80c per day and told them they ran their business and no government could come in and tell them what to do. Whenever the union sought to aid these workers, stool pigeons told bosses who represented the union.

"We stopped buying at their store they call the commissary but we call it the robbersary, because that's all they do. And we organized our own store which is now a going concern, Clark asserted.

Mr. Clark declared that workers in his state had never received any government checks for cotton conservation and when he told them they could get paid for it, they immediately wrote to Washington which in the past had been forbidden by the white bosses on pain of eviction and even worse fates. Upon receipt of their checks from the department of agriculture, irate white bosses began taking steps for the eradication of the labor agitators.

Miss Elvira Dale, 63-year-old delegate from Arkansas, said white folks in her section of the country think more of their dogs than they do of their Negro citizens. She has seen hundreds of grown Negroes in Crittenden county, she declared, who couldn't buy the cheapest dress and had to wear dresses made of flour sacks. They had little food, and even now the county and many others in the state are desperately in need of relief. Mrs. Dale declared her life was threatened when it was learned she was going to Washington to confer with the officials there.

The principal speaker, however was the Rev. Owen Whitfield, who won fame in the Missouri sharecroppers eviction last year when he led a demonstration of some 1,700 white and black sharecroppers.

"The bosses play the whites against the Negroes and the Negroes against the white," he said. "When one demands rights they are replaced by the other group and vice versa. I used to be considered a good preacher some 10 years ago but I preached a different kind of gospel from the kind I now preach. I am preaching now about a present God in the hearts and minds of men—the brotherhood of man and I am seeking to build a heaven here on earth. Heaven is a state of mind representing peace—hell is misery. I have stopped building or trying to build a city beyond the sky. Instead of looking toward the sky for help, I am going to look reactionaries in the face. There is no one here in Washington to represent us, so we came here ourselves. We want no more puny excuses or mimeographed letters. We are going to hand our troubles on the White House door.

"Why is there a talk of surplus commodity when there are 15,000,000 folks starving? I hear they are going to build a laboratory to try to determine new uses for cotton. That isn't needed. There are enough folks down South needing a plain cotton dress, cotton overhalls, cotton jumpers to use more cotton than we got stored away."

Taking a pot-shot at Theodore Bilbo, the U. S. senator from Mississippi, Mr. Whitfield declared that Bilbo's days were numbered.

"I worked on a plantation ten years to be a head nigger. That's what they call them down South, head-niggers. I used to get up before anyone else on the plantation did to get in good favor with my boss. I didn't know any better. But as I look back and see what a fool I was, I regret I didn't know any better in those days.

Mr. Whitfield recounted the difficulties the sharecroppers had after the crops were in and they had to search around for food, the store on the plantation being closed to them. Loud laughter greeted some of his witty sallies and the audience was deeply moved by his accounts.

Dr. Alexander's office lent all possible help to these unfortunates and after devoting an entire day to the program planned the delegates were then received the AAA and the housing authority.

Half-Million Southern Farm Families Lose Work

Government Loans Reported Used To Buy Machinery and Cause Un-employment

From 500,000 to 1,000,000 farm families have lost their work since 1930 in the cotton states, because of the greater use of machinery.

Take Texas, for example. In 1930 there were 30,000 farm tractors. In 1939 there were 100,000 farm tractors in use. EACH OF THESE TRACTORS MEANS THAT FROM TWO TO EIGHT FARM FAMILIES HAVE NO PLACE TO WORK.

These figures were gotten up by H. L. Mitchell, who is a member of the Executive committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Mitchell said that loans and grants by the federal government made it possible for owners of plantations to buy many of these machines and put farm families out of work.

Mitchell said that the government program has helped individuals through the Farm Security Program by re-establishing them on land and by granting loans But, he said, this help has been FAR OUT-BALANCED BY AID TO LAND OWNERS, WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY MORE MACHINES AND CAUSE MORE UNEMPLOYMENT.

As a result of this, Mitchell said that one out of 10 families has migrated to the West and the rest are now crowded in the slum areas of Southern cities.

MILLIONS WITHOUT HOMES

The Farm Security Administration recently reported that there are at least 350,000 American families representing more than 1,000,000 persons existing as migratory farm workers. They are found mostly in Florida, Texas, California, Arizona and New Jersey.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has just started a drive to organize the migratory farm workers, and to attempt to help those un-fortunates who wander from one place to another, looking for work.

To raise money for this and other work, the union and the Workers Defense League sponsored their annual National Share-Croppers' Week.

C. I. O. PROTESTS

The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America has charged through its president, Donald Henderson, that this money actually is to be used to fight the C. I. O. The U. C. A. P. A. W. A. is affiliated with the C. I. O., while the S. T. F. U. is un-affiliated.

Henderson charges that the Tenant Farmers' Union does not have 10,000 members, as it claims.

"Any group," Henderson says, "has, of course, the right to organize and collect money for its work. However, when outfits such as this one come North to solicit funds and sympathy among C. I. O. unions for the purpose of fighting the C. I. O. in the South, something should be done.

"They have duped a lot of honest people into endorsing their non-existent organization and activities already."

The Share-croppers' Week was observed in 27 cities, with the main meeting in New York City. Five hundred and fifty people at the Hotel Commodore in New York heard Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the President, urge co-operation throughout the nation to solve the problems of the share-croppers. She said that these problems are national and not confined to the South.

F. D. R. SEES HOPE

President Roosevelt sent a telegram to the New York dinner. He expressed the hope that the discussion would "contribute materially to the ultimate solution of the problems of low income and over-population in certain important farming areas."

The President's message was read by Newbold Morris, president of the New York City Council, who was chairman of the meeting. Letters were also read from Mayor F. H. LaGuardia of New York City, and David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, rallying support form "the economic liberation of these unhappy people."

A collection speech made by Roy Wilkins, editor of The Crisis, organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, netted $4,052 in gifts and pledges.

Other speakers at the dinner were Norman Thomas, who is leader of the Socialist Party; Jonathan Daniels, who is editor of the Raleigh (North Carolina) News Observer and author of "A Southerner Discovers the South," and J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Mrs. Roosevelt said: "Our country is a thrilling country with the most tremendous possibilities and with perhaps the greatest opportunities for the development of a great people. We can bring about a period in our history which we will look back upon as a hard period perhaps, but as a period of growth and experience which was necessary before we could develop the kind of a country that all of us would really like to see our United States become."

National Share-croppers Week had the support of 350 representatives of social, civic, literary, trade union and theater circles in New York, under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. Raymond V. Ingersoll and Mayor LaGuardia.

TALLULAH HELPS

The Theater Committee for National Chare-croppers Week has Paul Muni as its chairman and among the members are Tallulah Bankhead, John Barrymore, Eddie Dowling, Helen Hayes, Olsen and Johnson, and Monty Wooley.

The cost of "Pins and Needles" put on skits from that production last Sunday night at the Mecca Temple in New York City. Stars of the stage, screen and radio made personal appearances at this production.

The Labor committee is headed by Joseph Schlossberg and A. Philip Randolph as co-chairmen.

The Writers Committee is headed by Margaret Marshall, who is literary editor of the Nation, and John Chamberlain, who is editor of Fortune.

Other cities which had programs for National Share-croppers Week were Chicago, Boston, Northampton, Massachusetts; Newark and Brunswick, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Louisville and Akron.

Officers of the Tenant Farmers' Union presented recently the views of their members before a Senate Sub-committee on Agriculture. They urged an amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act to provide a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour for all farm labor hired by land-owners receiving AAA subsidiary payments.

SAYS FARM JOBLESS LACK MILL OUTLET

Dr. Bean Tells Senate Group Their Plight Is Aggravated by Industrial Situation

SEES SURPLUS MOUNTING

Agriculture Department Expert Puts Present Unemployed at More Than 2,500,000

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 16—Dr. Louis H. Bean, economic adviser of the Department of Agriculture, told the Senate Civil Liberties Committee today that a long-time downward trend in farm labor requirements had increased this country's surplus of farm workers so much that no outlets were in sight, either in agriculture or industry.

He presented figures showing that total and partial unemployment in agriculture amounted in 1937 to about 1,500,000 persons, and now was 2,500,000 to 2,750,000. Moreover, he said, indications pointed to an annual net increase of about 200,000 youths to the farm-working population, and to an accumulation of an excess of 1,886,000 farm males and 2,166,000 females in the 15-64 age group during the 1940 decade.

"Normally, surplus farm labor would tend to be absorbed in non-farm occupation, but that avenue has been generally blocked by the prevalence of industrial unemployment," Dr. Bean said.

Between 1909-1910 and 1931-1932, according to charts which he showed the committee, acreage harvested and livestock produced increased about 13 per cent, the number of hired and family workers decreased about 10 per cent, and total acreage and livestock per worker increased about 25 per cent. In addition, there was an increase in productivity per acre and per unit of other capital, showing up as an increase in production per worker, of about 40 per cent.

"Since 1932, agricultural programs and the weather have been responsible for the holding down of certain acreages and the greater abandonment of others," Dr. Bean said. "Restoration to 1932 totals of acreages harvested and livestock produced would mean an increase in farm labor requirements of about 10 per cent, but even this would not necessarily increase the demand for farm labor by an equivalent amount, for it is now possible for the average farm laborer to handle a greater number of acres and a larger number of livestock than in 1932."

Colored Farm Owners Driven From Homes, Forced To Live On $75 To $200 Annual Wages

Described As "Dehumanized" Victim Of Cruel System Of Feudalism By Republican Leader

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Under the New Deal Administration Negroes living in certain sections of the country are forced to struggle along on wages of $75 to $200 a year, according to statistics.

Local prejudices in other sections have effectually intervened to deny the Negro even a small proportion of the benefits to which he is entitled under the new regulations of the Department of Agriculture, the A.A.A., Farm Security, and many other alphabetical divisions.

This has conspired to drive Negro families from the farm and country life into highly complex city life. The descending ladder has carried many, if not most of them, from modest farm ownership to the sharecropper-tenant relationship and, finally, to being a dependent laborer at wages so low as to be a disgrace to the richest country on the face of the earth."

Victims of Feudalism

The plight of the sharecropper of the South is the plight of America. Nearly 10,000,000 men, women and children, black and white, are the victims of this cruel system of feudalism.

These people who have borne the burden and the heat of the day in producing cotton for the world's consumption are the victims of a ruthless system which has not only dehumanized them, but last year, as a climax, forced thousands and thousands of them from the shacks, called houses, in which they lived, to wander along the highways of the Nation as "American Refugees," as they have been described.

Our boast of a democratic form of government hangs in the balance, and cannot long continue, if these people are much longer to be regarded as not being worthy of having formulated for them a constructive program which shall do away with the terrible conditions under which they now exist.

Red-Tapeism

A tolerant amiability is the attitude of New Dealers when these perverse conditions are mentioned, with a smiling assurance that complaints will be looked into, and, "if possible," changed. They are not changed, however. Red-tapeism and complicated formula of operation, together with unfair and unsympathetic administration, see to it that benefits shall not flow into the direction of any aggregate number of colored farmers.

Labor And The Farmer

"Labor and farmers have much in common," said President Fred H. Sexauer of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association of New York, recently. But, he added, "that does not mean domination of farmers or their organizations by organized labor. It does not mean that they could or can tell farm organizations which farmers shall or shall not be members. Labor unions should represent labor, and farm organizations should represent farmers and . . . they should meet as equals."

That is sound policy. Short-sighted efforts of some labor groups to "gang up" on agriculture have met with the short shrift they deserve. Agriculture has always been willing to confer with workers on any common problem, in a spirit of fairness and equality—but agriculture will not submit to labor control or racketeering.

HARVEST-TIME LABOR ASSURED FOR SOUTH

Draft Won't Strip Farms Of Workers, Battley Says

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 30.—(INS) — The agricultural South was assured Monday that the Selective Service Act would not strip it of labor at harvest periods.

Major Joseph F. Battley, a member of the national joint Army and Navy Selective Service Committee, spoke to representatives of 10 Southern states Monday and cautioned them to be "liberal" in the interpretation of the Conscription Act as it is applied to farm workers.

Major Battley pointed out that farm workers may be idle at the moment, but will be needed at peak points in the harvesting of crops, and that such labor could be considered vitally necessary. The major pointed out to Selective Service representatives that all possible consideration must be given to agricultural pursuits so that there will be no danger to the Nation's food supply.

Representatives who attended the discussion came from Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas, South Carolina and Tennessee. After Monday's conference the major will fly to San Francisco and there speak before another group of regional Selective Service representatives.

Tenant-Sharecroppers' Plight is Soul Destroying

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

Attention has repeatedly been called to the distress and misery among the nearly 2,000,000 tenant families in the South. While approximately two-thirds of these are whites, the remaining one-third, that is, about 666,666 colored families, is face to face with conditions, intolerable and soul and body destroying.

As tenants, share-croppers, working on shares," as it is called, they are victims of an archaic economic system which has not appreciably changed during the 75 years of so-called physical freedom.

They are caught in a vicious circle which denies them practically every incentive to live but to entertain notions that they can escape from it. The fate of the white tenant-farmer is inextricably bound up with that of the Negro peasant. They "ride to fate abreast."

—No Ill Escapes Them

No ill has escaped these tenant-farmers. After a year's hard work, instead of having small surplus, they find themselves held by landlords in a state of peonage with overhanging and successively increasing debt, rather than rewards for the labor they have performed and the privations they endured.

The Census reports for 1940 are bound to chronicle a dismal picture of Negro farms lost by those who had partially emerged from the share-cropper status; of increased numbers of share-croppers, and worst of all, of enormously increased numbers who have shoved off the share-cropper level to the farm-laborer class, at pitifully small wages.

The prolonged depression has accelerated the low-descending economic scale of these people, and like the Joads of John Steinbeck's gripping story, thousands and thousands of them have become members of that shifting, drifting, wandering, discouraged group of nomads to be found in all the Southern States, and, of course, in California to which many of the white "drifters" have gone.

Negroes Rank High Among "Forgotten Men"

It is a major social situation and problem not yet solved that is not flattering to rich, boastful, imperious America.

When we speak of "forgotten men" we must include this group who rank highest in the category of the underprivileged.

What is the United States of America doing about this major social problem?

It is true that an attempt was made by Congress five years ago to provide loans to worthy tenants to purchase farms. In the first two years there was only enough money for 6,181 loans; 146,000 tenant-farmers had applied for help.

A veritable tyro at figures can advise as to how long it will take to help the 2,000,000 tenant-farmer group if, after two years, only 6,181 loans can be made with 146,000 applying.

Worst of all in this situation, the Negro farmer, exposed as he is to the general privations of the lot of tenant-share-croppers, finds himself face to face with the complicated formula of making an application, and securing a loan, with democratic political bosses in charge of deciding to whom loans shall go.

What show has a Negro share-cropper in a situation of this character? All of the latent, racial prejudices of the Southern section hedge him about and deny to him the recognition and benefits he should properly receive.

Nearly 7½ billion dollars, or one-half more than the Governmen's total budgets, for every purpose, during the corresponding 7-year period of 1911-17, have been poured into attempted solutions of the farm problem in America. A check-up indicates that 356 new farms bills have been introduced seeking some kind of a solution. Apparently, we are further than ever from anything that approaches permanent relief for this farming group, blacks and whites alike.

Only Trickle of Expenditures Aids Negroes

A generous Government, prodigal beyond all bounds, has placed at the disposal of the New Deal appropriations for the benefit-programs requested by the U. S. Agricultural Department. Only a trickle of these millions and billions have reached the Negro people engaged in farming in the South.

The colored groups who have migrated to the North have come from the farming sections of the South. Surely these Northern groups must be alive to the plight and fate of their Southern relatives and friends who suffer beyond all calculable limits while enduring the conditions set-forth in these observations.

These nearly 700,000 Negro tenant-farmers in the South with their families, represent approximately 3,000,000 persons.

This is but one of the many failures of the New Deal which have directly affected the Negro population. It is clearly apparent that the administration is fumbling with a problem far beyond its ability to correct.

It is needless to look in that direction for the solution of this problem which is of paramount importance to the colored people of the South, nearly 80 per cent of whom are engaged in some form of agricultural production.

If these Northern colored persons who have moved from the South to escape the inhibitions, prescriptions, prejudices and lack of opportunities of that section wish to help their relatives who remain in the South they should join in the supreme effort soon to get underway to place in other hands the control of our Government and its functions.

Nazis Send Thous

C. I. O. School For Negroes Teaches 'Em To Organize Southern Farm Negroes

Group Assembled At Memphis Hear Radicals Lecture On Tactics—Negroes Had Never Been Away From Home Before

ATTENTION of the MidSouth was focused near the week's end on a nondescript building at 352 West Illinois Avenue in Memphis where "carefully handpicked negroes" from the Southern cotton states were reported to be getting intensive training in C. I. O. organization tactics.

The negroes, never before away from home, had been sent into Memphis by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America Union, a C. I. O. affiliate, to be trained to take the farmer-organization field this Fall. The course is completed today.

Heading the "faculty" of the training school has been "Rev." Claude Williams, ousted in 1938 by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for alleged Communistic activities.

Lecturing to the "classes" have been Miles Norton, director of the pink Highlander Folk School at Monteagle; Winifred Chappell, formerly of Commonwealth College at Mena, Ark., and Harry Kroger, president of the Southern Cotton States Council.

They were also scheduled to hear Jack McMichael, president of the Communist-dominated American Youth Congress and Donald Henderson, international president of the U. C. A. P. & W. A. U. Henderson was ousted from Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for alleged Red leanings.

Not the least interesting was the revelation that the school had been in operation for some time apparently unknown to agencies supposed to be keeping an eye on radical activities.

Fulton Negro Farm Expenses In Sharp Rise

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
OCT 10 1940

$6,891 Salaries Paid in 1925; $33,080 Expended in 1939.

Number of employes on Fulton county's Negro farm has more than doubled since 1925 and the annual payroll for this department has increased more than five times the amount of salaries paid these farm workers 15 years ago, figures compiled in the office of the county commission showed yesterday.

Employes and their total annual salaries are shown in the following year-by-year table:

Year.	Employes.	Salaries.
1925	11	$6,891
1926	11	8,226
1927	11	11,295
1928	13	15,894
1929	13	15,432
1930	15	16,590
1931	16	20,318
1932	16	22,067
1933	16	20,133
1934	18	22,384
1935	19	27,420
1936	21	29,532
1937	24	31,383
1938	25	32,339
1939	25	33,080

There were 25 employes on this payroll during the first six months of 1940 and in this period they were paid a total of $16,586.

Cotton Pickers' Pay Increased

NOV 20 1940
The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

ATHENS, Ga., Nov. 19.—(AP)—Cotton pickers earned about four cents a hundred pounds more for harvesting the 1940 lint crop than they received last season.

The Agricultural Marketing Service Review of Farm Labor Conditions quoted the average rate as 62 cents per 100 pounds, as compared with 58 cents a year ago.

Only in Mississippi were the rates down "slightly" because of a labor supply still in excess of demand.

Oklahoma presented a contrast, however, with workers in the western part of the state receiving 50 cents as compared with 75 cents in the eastern part of the state.

Throughout the nation "the number of persons employed on farms declined less than usual during October," the report stated.

The review estimated that 10,902,000 persons were working on farms November 1, compared with 10,762,000 on the same date a year ago. Most of the increase was among "hired workers," the report added, despite the drop from the October 1 estimate of 11,735,000 employed.

OWNERS TRY TO STOP MEETING OF FARMERS

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa
8-3-40

Attempt of Natchitoches Landlords to "Freeze Out" Union, Won't Halt Meeting, Secretary Says.

NATCHITOCHES, La., Aug. 1—(ANP)—As farmers in Nachitoches parish make plans to hold their first parish-wide educational meeting, landlords in this area are attempting to freeze them out of every available meeting place.

It is reported that Clinton Clark, Farmers' union organizer, attempted to rent the Masonic hall in the town of Natchitoches, but learned from Scott A. Lewis, grand master and custodian of the building that he had been told by certain landlords not to rent the hall.

Miss Margery Dallet, acting secretary of the Louisiana Farmers' union, declared that the meeting will go on. She stated that the union's attorney declared that it was their right to hold the meeting. Clark will make efforts to obtain a permit from the mayor of the city of Natchitoches to hold the meeting in the hall, and if not successful, will find some other place.

Gross injustices to farmers have long been reported regarding working conditions, benefit checks, and other farm rights. Only recently, a farmer was forced to sign his benefit check over to a landowner, upon the threat of injury in the office of the parish supervisor of the AAA.

Natchitoches is one of the largest cotton growing parishes in the state, with a great majority of the sharecroppers Negroes, getting their life from the soil.

Organizer Of Farmers Persecuted

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga

Tells of His Experience In Louisiana

SEP 27 1940

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Persecuted and prosecuted, stalwart Negroes of the South march steadily forward. Down in Louisiana, Clinton Clark, who has seen many bitter days because of his efforts to organize his people into cooperative buying and the elimination of the famous commissaries which have bled the poor Negroes to death economically, has just been released from jail for his part in trying to organize Negro farmers.

Under the auspices of the Farmers Educational Cooperative association, which has offices in larger cities in the country and specializes in the organization of white and colored farmers only, in order to aid them in purchasing food, clothing and farm supplies, Clark has been instrumental in organizing some 3,500 Negro families into units which buy cooperatively.

THROWN IN JAIL

As a result of his work in Louisiana, particularly in the town and parish of Natchitoches, Clark was seized and thrown into jail on charges of receiving money under false pretenses. Said Mr. Clark:

"Down on the plantations when men and women get to be 50 years old and over, they are thrown off the plantation and have no money nor food or anything. They go to the relief bureaus to try to get help and WPA jobs, but the relief bureaus refuse to investigate their cases and they are left with nothing at all. I told them to write to Washington and they did. And when the letters started coming back, the relief people got mad and said 'We know how to run our business down here without the people in Washington trying to tell us what to do.' And then when they asked one old man who wrote his letter, since he couldn't write, he told them I did.

"Then they came and arrested me and put me in jail where they held me for six days without telling me why they were holding me. Finally they talked with a government investigator, who told them they did not have enough to hold me on and they had to turn me loose. They then took me to the state line and turned me loose after making me sign a paper that I wouldn't return to Louisiana.

DENIED SCHOOL BUILDING

"The trouble started when I advertised that I was to hold a meeting in the town for the whole parish of Natchitoches. First, I tried to get a school, but they wouldn't let me have the school, for the farmers said they paid taxes on the school and I wasn't supposed to use those buildings. Then I tried to get a hall, and they told me the white folks would burn down the hall if the colored owner let me have it.

"Then I succeeded in getting a Baptist church. So I went to the mayor of the town and told him what I planned to do and he said the meeting was all right and to go ahead with it after I showed him all of the papers and things I had to work with. But when the mob of farmers who were sore at me came in and talked with the mayor, he refused to let me have the church. He even told me it was best for me to get out of town.

"None of the members of the mob knew me, but they knew my name, and as soon as they identified me and took me into the jail they went back to the crowd that had gathered at the church and told them to go ahead with their meeting, it was all right

WORKERS TERRORIZED

"Landlords started terrorizing the workers on the farm saying that they were listening to some 'smart n——— from up north who was fixing to get himself killed.

"I was told in the jail that I was going to be strung up and that I wouldn't live three lays for the work I had done and that the landlords were organizing against me, just as I was organized against them.

"Some of the landlords who were there favored what I was doing and most of the farmers were One of them testified that he had been saving $5 a ton on the cost of fertilizer for his farm and he saw nothing harmful in what I was doing.

"At first, we met in back rooms and then in schools and churches to do our planning and buying, until we got enough money to build our first store, of which we are very proud.

TO CONTINUE MOVEMENT

"We intend going on with our movement, which has gotten support in all the southern states and has spread now until it is operating in 38 states."

Accusing Clark and his followers of being "fifth columnists," opponents sought to have him arrested by the federal government on rumped up charges of agitation against the government. When these failed, other measures, and threats and jailing, took their place.

Mr. Clark was in Washington for a conference with other officials of his organization and to talk with administrators of the AAA and the FSA with reference to the furtherance of the cooperative buying movement in the states where the Farmers union operates.

Negro Chased From La. For Organizing Farmers; Tells Story of Landlord Cruelty

Would Not Allow Him To Hold Meeting To Discuss Plan of Procedure

—o—

Organizer Jailed On False Charges

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—Persecuted and prosecuted, stalwart Negroes of the South march steadily forward, despite the handicaps ignorant white Southerners place in their paths. Down in Louisiana, Clinton Clark, who has seen many bitter days because of his efforts to organize his people into cooperative buying and the elimination of the famous commissaries which have bled the poor Negroes to death economically, has just been released from jail for his part in trying to organize Negro farmers.

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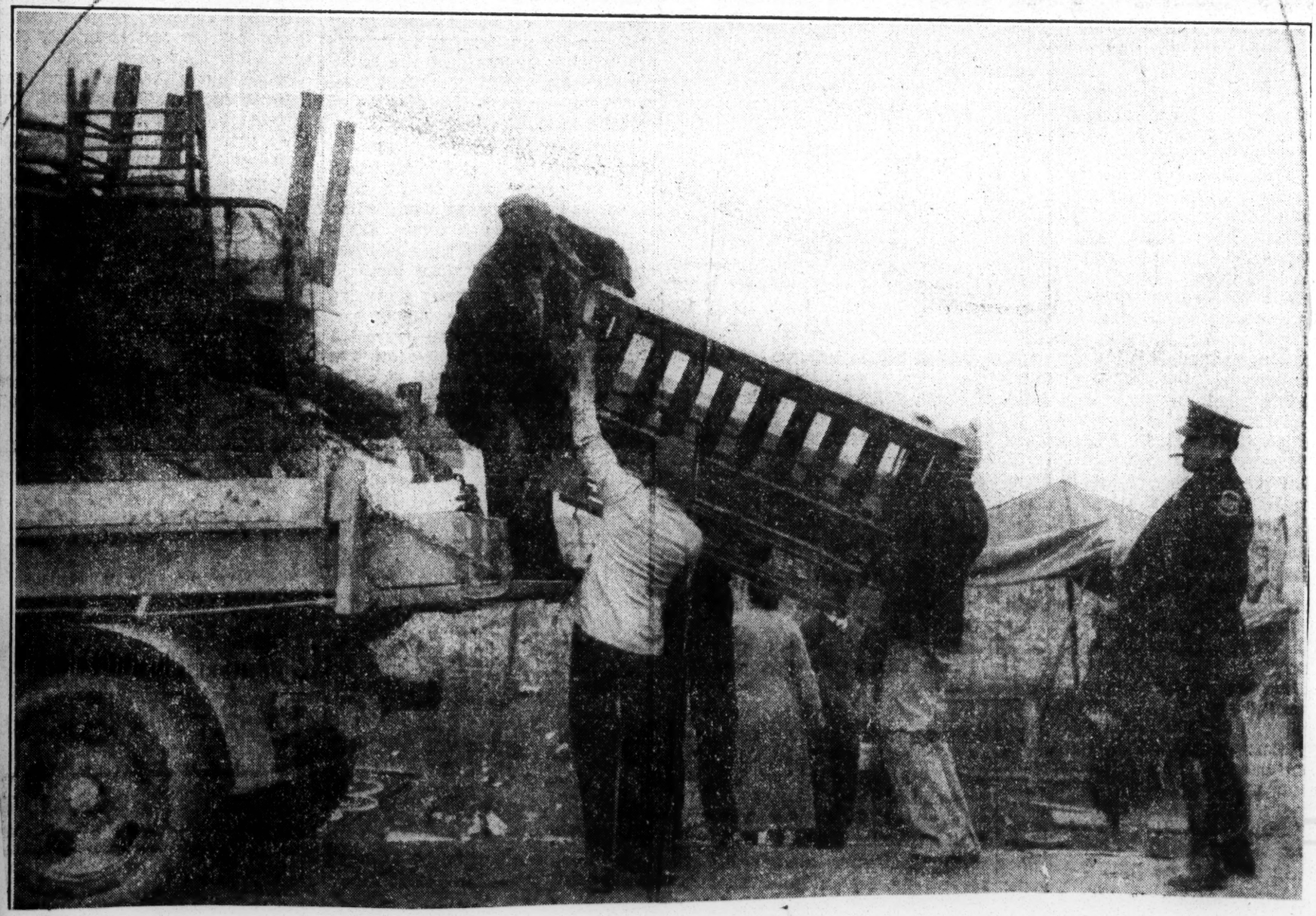
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Oklahoma City Dispatch
SEP 28 1940
Oklahoma City

Eviction Of 100 Families Is Prevented By Action Of Farm Union In Louisiana



Eviction day scene typical at this time of year in The South. While the well-clad policeman looks on, this share-cropper family piles its shabby belongings on a truck and heads for—who knows where. It's time to leave the land they worked. their landlord has told them. He has no more use for them. Now they can shift for themselves.

Tenants Disregard Planters' Threats To Burn Churches Used To Meet In

BY MARGERY DALLET

NEW ORLEANS — Mattresses, beds and chairs—the slim furnishings of sharecropper shacks, piled on trucks and wagons. Poorly-dressed, shivering farm men and their families, whose eyes rest for a last time on the land they cultivated. These people produced America's surplus crop of cotton, yet have hardly enough clothes to protect their thin bodies from winter's cold.

January is traditional moving month for evicted farm families. But this year about 100 families in Louisiana were not evicted from their homes. What saved these families was the Louisiana Farmers Union. And the lesson here is one for the entire South to learn—that through the Union comes justice and security.

Throughout the Delta, in Louisiana, two distinct factors are driving cotton tenants and sharecroppers off of the land, into the day labor or unemployed class. The first is increasing mechanization, the introduction of tractors and riding tools. The second is a change to other agricultural pursuits requiring less man-labor, such as livestock and clover.

In some sections of the South, small farmers and tenants have learned that they could not afford to sit by and let the organized minority of big landlords control their destiny, so they have organized to fight their own battles and protect their rights.

Last winter agricultural workers in southeastern Missouri joined the sharecropper division of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers Association (C. I. O.), and followed industrial labor tactics in their roadside demonstration. The U. C. A. P. A. W. A. also has sharecropper locals in east Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee.

In Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, tenants are lining up with the Farmers Union, which has championed their case since it was organized in 1902.

DEMAND INVESTIGATION

The Louisiana Farmers Union, with headquarters at 414 Godchaux Building, New Orleans, has waged a long and successful campaign against rent increases and evictions. Mass meetings of protest were held through the length and breadth of the state as far back as July, attended by landlords and tenants. Special efforts were concentrated in Pte. Coupee, St. Landry and Avoyelles Parishes, where the landowners had come together in an association to plan and force rent increases by evicting and blacklisting tenants who refused to accept the higher contracts.

Landlord demands were that tenants on the fourth be upped to the third, cash rents be raised $1 to $3 an acre, and tenants already on the third were to supply their own fence materials and do additional labor in 1940.

Striking examples of this threatening situation were reported in detail to Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace and brought about an investigation by the Department of Agriculture and the withholding of AAA payments, in accordance with the regulations of the AAA, from those landlords who had changed their leasing and cropping arrangements or reduced the number of tenants in order to receive for themselves a larger part of the AAA payment to the farm.

Tenants in that area organized 100 per cent in the Farmers Union, pledged to stand together, refused to sign higher contracts, refused to bid against each other. (At Cottonport, unorganized tenants bid against each other and forced rents up to the one-half and to $12 an acre. Now they wonder why they can't get Farm Security Administration loans!)

Union committees called on individual landowners and succeeded in persuading several of them to cancel eviction notices and higher contracts. But the attempt to hold a joint meeting with the landlord association, to solve tenancy problems with mutual effort, was ignored.

THREATEN ARSON

Some of the most powerful planters said they would burn down the churches where Union meetings were held and threatened the lives of union men.

"We know the landlords and commissary owners do not like the union," said Gordon McIntire, secretary of the Union, "because they want to control with a free hand But we won't be bluffed or intimidated. The Union will not stop until we've reached all of the dirt farmers and helped them achieve economic security."

So the Union continued the fight and carried the message of all the sharecroppers and tenant farmers to every state, regional and federal farm agency. Through letters, wires and personal interviews ending at Washington, D. C., it secured action from Secretary Wallace and high government officials.

The result is better than the Union leaders even hoped. Of more than 100 threatened evictions among members of a single local Union, in the upper part of Pte. Coupee, all but four were prevented or farm homes were secured elsewhere for the families.

The Farm Security Administration has lent invaluable assistance in helping to keep rents down and encouraging long leases. They have promised rehabilitation loans on adjusted farm plans, and emergency grants and relief to evicted families.

Pte. Coupee Parish Supervisor Barbre writes: "We have gone into the matter thoroughly and think we can get all of the people placed. It looks to me now as if all the tenants will be taken care of."

Farmers Union leaders realize that these families for whom they have obtained homes and farms in 1940 are only a very small percentage of the tenants in the South But they know that their success in halting the trend to higher rents, evictions and insecurity in one particular section of Louisiana had a very good influence on plantations in neighboring parishes, which it is hoped will be extended to other cotton states.

Louisiana Farmers' Union Aids Tenants

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 16—Mattresses, beds and chairs, the slim furnishings of sharecropper shacks, piled on wagons and trucks, poorly-dressed, shivering farm men and their families, rested their eyes for a last time last week on the land they cultivated. These people produced America's surplus crop of cotton, yet have hardly enough clothes to protect their thin bodies from winter's cold.

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SHERIFFS IN DELTA TO NAB HOBOES AS COTTON PICKERS

AUG 22 1940

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Cleveland, Miss., Sept. 21.—A shortage of sufficient labor to pick the Mississippi Delta's mammoth cotton crop threatens and is likely to prove serious before the end of the harvesting season, according to reports received here from some of the chief planters of various sections of the Delta.

The shortage has already been felt, although the picking season has only recently started, planters said. Planters claim that so many Negroes have left the Delta in recent years or have received employment on various public works that the number is insufficient to take care of present needs.

The cotton harvest season will be three or four weeks shorter this year than last year and in previous years owing to rains during the first part of the season which delayed planting. That means that the cotton-picking season will have to be short. Picking must be speeded up in order that the harvest may be concluded before bad weather sets in and that may not be possible with the present supply of workers on hand.

The Times Picayune

Although merchants in the Yazoo Delta have been trying to get the planters to pledge themselves to utilize only home labor, in order to keep hundreds of thousands of dollars paid for picking at home, Mississippi Delta planters will be forced to look for outside labor, according to heads of the big planting interests. Mexican labor will be imported to the Mississippi Delta is untrue, say planters. Importations may not be on a large scale until the latter part the season, they said.

New Orleans

16

During the coming week Mississippi Delta towns will be asked to round up vagrants and send them to the fields to harvest the crop. Trains will be watched and tramps passing through this region will be taken from the freights and sent to the fields to pay for their fines for vagrancy.

Sheriffs and their deputy sheriffs and police officers will take part in the roundup of idle labor. The number may be sufficient to carry on picking for a week or 10 days more but will be hardly sufficient to harvest the crop during mid-October and later, say planters and county agents.

MISSISSIPPI REPORTS SHORTAGE OF PICKERS

Late Crop And Construction Projects Blamed

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 17.—Additional cotton picking labor is sorely needed at present by planters in the Mississippi Delta, although more than 3000 pickers have been placed in that section during the past six weeks by the Mississippi State Employment Service, Director Raymond L. Sullivan said on Thursday.

OCT 18 1940

The demand for large numbers of extra workers is heightened by the fact that the season is late and the crop must be gathered rapidly before unfavorable weather sets in. At the same time the supply of labor available for cotton picking is short because many workers that would otherwise be used are already employed on the various large construction projects now under way in this state.

Over 1000 workers are now employed at the site of the Arkabutla Dam near Eudora, on the Tate and De Soto County lines. The du Pont powder plant at Millington, Tenn., is using about 1500 laborers from Mississippi, and the expansion of Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg is employing several thousand, severely limiting the supply available for agricultural work. In addition, the crop in Northeast Mississippi is far superior to last year's, and pickers in that area who were moved into the Delta by the thousands last year are now occupied with their own harvest.

The employment service has had the co-operation of the WPA and the State Department of Public Welfare in recruiting labor, and also of the Delta Council in directing the program.

English Plantations

SCOTT, Miss. — (ANP) — The largest cotton plantation in the world, the Delta and Pine Land company, of Mississippi is located here. The plantation owned by a syndicate of English capitalists covers 60 square miles and has 1,000 tenant families on it.

The plantation operates on what is practically a factory basis. Good land enables the tenants to make a fairly good return for their labor and the plantation is said to be one of the best profit producers in the Delta for its British owners.

FSA Officials Hear Plight Of Missouri Sharecroppers: Blame AAA

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26 — Supported by stout "amens" and "yes sirs," and other religious exclamations, Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, C.I.O. organizer and leader of last year's roadside demonstration of evicted sharecroppers, painted a picture of torture and deprivation in the Southland.

Leading some 25 sharecroppers here from Missouri, Reverend Whitfield, as their spokesman, told Farm Security Administration officials of the plight of tenant farmers and sharecroppers in his section of the country at a conference here last week.

He charged, with the support of the others who came with him, that the AAA benefit payments had the effect of throwing these agricultural workers out on the roads with nowhere to turn.

They turned to Uncle Sam for aid, the minister said, in the face of a threat of widespread evictions in southern cotton states, particularly in the "boot heel" region of Missouri. The delegation with him consisted of C.I.O. United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers.

1,500 Threatened

Mr. Whitfield declared that 75 percent of the plantation owners illegally seized AAA benefit payments due their tenants and croppers and estimated that 1,500 Missouri families would have been evicted in the first two weeks of January, but that notices had been withheld pending a government solution of the problem.

At a conference recently called by the Governor of Missouri, he said, three proposals had been agreed upon to meet the situation. They involved contribution of land, either by plantation owners or the government, and the supply of teams and tools by the FSA to enable the families faced with eviction to continue farming.

Tell of Floggings

Union officials explained that since the benefit payments were contingent on withdrawal of land, a curtailment of the number of tenants and sharecroppers was the result.

Whitfield explained, however, that evictions usually followed refusals by the tenants to sign over their benefit checks to the owners.

Members of the delegation told horrible tales of whippings and other forms of terroristic acts against them in their attempts to organize.

MISSOURI GOVERNOR TELLS OF PLAN TO AID SHARECROPPERS

Of 1500 Made Homeless By Eviction, 925 Are Still Unemployed.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 29. (ANP)—Gov. Lloyd C. Stark this week announced that a committee representing landowners, tenants and sharecroppers had approved a five-point plan outlined by the Federal Farm Security Administration, to assist the homeless croppers and farm workers of Southeast Missouri.

Members of the committee meeting with the governor included the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield of Kirkwood, only colored member; Jewell Mayes, state commissioner of agriculture; Sam L. Hunter of New Madrid, E. P. Coleman of Sikeston, J. W. Burch of Columbia and C. E. Underhill of Scott county.

The governor said that local committees would be named in each of the seven Southeast counties affected, to aid in putting the program into effect. He said a recent survey showed that about 925 of the 1,500 sharecroppers made homeless by eviction notices several weeks ago, are still without employment.

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Survey Was Made

Assisting in the program, the State Employment Service, acting on instructions by Governor Stark, early this year made a survey of he unemployed in the ranks of he farm tenants and day laborers which resulted in an accurate list of about 900 unemployed farm families being made available for use by the Federal Government.

The Farm Security Administration then took over the job of helping some of the unemployed families and at the same time broadened and enlarged its program to assist additional families in finding security on the land.

As one part of the program, two co-operative farms were established, one in Dunklin and the other in Pemiscot County, which will permit nearly 1000 families to produce crops and gain some security by conducting their operations on a co-operative plan.

Theory Being Proved

Already, the La Forge Co-operative Farm near New Madrid has proved that large groups of stranded farm families can be rehabilitated and transformed into taxpaying citizens without financial loss to the Government, indicating that such farms, conducted intelligently and on a sound financial basis could easily become one phase of already established.

Three plans have been proposed to stabilize the labor supply needed in the area at cotton chopping and picking time while giving laborers an opportunity to turn their unused time into food, better housing and subsistence agriculture. Still another phase is the expansion of the standard rehabilitation program which provides for loans to farmers for equipment, livestock and other necessities of operation and living.

Plans Are Outlined

The three plans to stabilize the labor supply follow:

"Labor rehabilitation," on subsistence tracts supplied by landowners. Under this plan small grants and loans are now being made to 1758 families, certified by the Social Security Board as on or eligible for relief, to garden, preserve food and maintain a cow on small tracts supplied by landowners. The FSA has announced that it has had 100 per cent co-operation from landowners under the plan.

"Scattered labor homes," under which it is contemplated families will be given loans to build houses and start subsistence farming on small tracts, part of their cash income coming from their tracts and part from day labor.

"Group labor homes," or groups of 50 to 100 labor homes, each with three to five acres for subsistence agriculture. These homes, if developed, would be built on Government land; the homes would be rented to the laborers and the FSA would supervise them.

The labor supply, once distributed under such a system, might be stabilized through the use of Missouri State Employment service at cotton chopping and picking time. The employment service, by offering work first to Southeast Missouri day laborers, could minimize use of migratory workers and a constant migration of an additional unneeded population into the area. Communities would benefit through an opportunity to improve their housing, health and living conditions.

Age-Old Sharecropper Problem Is Approached From Scientific Angle In Southeast Missouri

'Laboratory' For Sociological Experiments In Tenant Farming and Rehabilitation Gives Promise Of Solution—Three Plans Are Used

By MAX STURM
Special to The Commercial Appeal

HAYTI, Mo., April 21.—A scientific approach to the solution of the South's 70-year-old sharecropper problem is being made, with the cotton belt of Southeast Missouri as a "laboratory" for sociological experiments in tenant farming and rehabilitation.

That this part of the state is an ideal field for experimentation is denied by no one. Sharecroppers and landowners alike are anxious to see the outcome of the experiments which are to ascertain if the sharecropper problem can be solved. In addition, many in each group feel that if a solution is to be found, this plan should at least pave the way.

Following the roadside demonstration in January, 1939, when about 1700 persons encamped on the main highways of this area, the Federal Government took the problems of the share tenant more seriously than ever before. It has started a program to discover a solution which will stand throughout the years.

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Already, the La Forge Co-operative Farm near New Madrid has proved that large groups of stranded farm families can be rehabilitated and transformed into taxpaying citizens without financial loss to the Government, indicating that such farms, conducted intelligently and on a sound financial basis could easily become one phase of a large-scale program to solve the sharecropper problem.

The FSA this year has a five-point program which it hopes will help in stabilizing farming conditions for laborers and tenants in this area, and thus contribute to the solution of the whole problem. This program includes additional co-operative farms similar to those already established.

Three plans have been proposed to stabilize the labor supply needed in the area at cotton chopping and picking time while giving laborers an opportunity to turn their unused time into food, better housing and subsistence agriculture. Still another phase is the expansion of the standard rehabilitation program which provides for loans to farmers for equipment, livestock and other necessities of operation and living.

Plans Are Outlined

The three plans to stabilize the labor supply follow:

"Labor rehabilitation," on subsistence tracts supplied by landowners. Under this plan small grants and loans are now being made to 1758 families, certified by the Social Security Board as on or eligible for relief, to garden, preserve food and maintain a cow on small tracts supplied by landowners. The FSA has announced that it has had 100 per cent co-operation from landowners under the plan.

"Scattered labor homes," under which it is contemplated families will be given loans to build houses and start subsistence farming on small tracts, part of their cash income coming from their tracts and part from day labor.

"Group labor homes," or groups of 50 to 100 labor homes, each with three to five acres for subsistence agriculture. These homes, if developed, would be built on Government land; the homes would be rented to the laborers and the FSA would supervise them.

The labor supply, once distributed under such a system, might be stabilized through the use of Missouri State Employment service at cotton chopping and picking time. The employment service, by offering work first to Southeast Missouri day laborers, could minimize use of migratory workers and a constant migration of an additional unneeded population into the area. Communities would benefit through an opportunity to improve their housing, health and living conditions.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

MISSOURI

Five Sharecroppers Tell Of Tragic Plight of Others

Spokesmen for 3,000,000 Forgotten Southerners Bring Real Life Story of 'Grapes of Wrath'

By Angelo Herndon

The tragic plight of 3,000,00 American citizens, known as sea sonal agricultural workers, is : serious menace which our nationa government has only found tim to look upon with scorn and with out feeling for the human suffer ing and poverty which is the lo of these people.

They are a wandering, homeless and destitute people—the socia 'outcasts" of our present economic and political system. For years they have been definitely the cast-aways of our social system, and each year that passes their situation becomes progressively worse as new thousands and millions are added to their numbers.

While the leaders of the government are too busy trying to get our country involved in the European war, there is a group of men and women who are at present traveling throughout the country telling the story of the sharecropper, tenant and agricultural worker. It is a story that every American should know.

This group of social benefactors headed by the Rev. Owen W. Whitfield, leader of the famous Missour roadside demonstration of evicted sharecroppers which attracted nationwide attention last January, is doing a job of inestimable value to the safety and further extension of American democracy.

The members of the delegation, Elvira Dale, Arkansas sharecropper leader; Blanche Fischer, 16-year-old daughter of a white sharecropper family of Missouri; Harry Koger, president, Texas Tenant Farmers Union and Rev. and Mrs. Whitfield, have just completed a three-day cotton conference in Washington called by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America.

GET GOV'T AID PROMISE

The conference, which had representatives from six Southern states, secured promises from officials of the Farm Security Administration that county committees of the FSA would be reformed to include sharecropper and farmer representatives as a means of checking the wholesale robbery of landlords in the administration of rehabilitation loans, emergency relief grants and other services of the FSA.

Rev. Whitfield pointed out that n Mississippi and New Madrid counies, Missouri, an investigation conducted by the FBI revealed that andlords had confiscated $35,000 n FSA checks sent to sharecroppers.

"The people are afraid to complain about this," he said, "because when they write letters to Washington, these letters are forwarded to the state offices of the FSA and from three to the county administrators, who in most cases are the same landlords who have taken the checks."

In many instances, complaining sharecroppers have been visited by vigilante committees and shot at in their homes. The conference demanded that all sharecropper-tenant benefit checks be mailed directly to each sharecropper and tenant instead of through the landlords and planters. A progam for rural education, housing, a minimum wage for day laborers and higher cotton prices, was worked out at the conference.

A resolution for the passage of the anti-lynching bill and against Negro discrimination was also adopted. Measures to amend the present Social Security Law to include cotton wage workers in its benefits, were passed on by the conference. A similar program to provide an old age pension of $60 per month for sharecroppers, tenants and agricultural workers who have reached the age of 60, will be presented shortly to Chairman Altmeyer of the Social Security Board.

$12 A MONTH

Emphasizing the discrepancies of he Social Security Law, Rev. Whitfield pointed out that the majority of Negro and white sharecroppers of the South are being excluded because in most cases they have no way of establishing their age. Those who received any benefits at all from the law he said, do not get more than $12 a month.

Commenting on his visit with Mrs. Roosevelt, Rev. Whitfield said: "Mrs. Roosevelt had a lot to say, twice as much as I said, because she did not let me talk." She did promise him the use of her column.

The Washington conference of the UCAPAWA was summoned to meet the threat of widespread evictions and cuts in the agriculture budget. An eviction dead-line has been set for Feb. 1 by the landlords of Missouri, who last Jan.. 10 drove 1,200 Negroes and 500 white sharecroppers from their homes.

With money raised through the union and from sympathetic friends throughout the country, 96 families of the evicted croppers were settled on a 93-acre tract of land which the Rev. Whitfield was able to purchase for $300, $150 of which is still to be paid. Many of the white families were driven into the swampy marsh lands behind a levee in Butler County, Missouri, last year, where they are constantly threatened by floods.

For a period of three months the FSA supplied the new settlers on the 93-acre tract of land with emergency grant checks ranging from $10 to $18 a month. But this was cut off when the planters got together in mass meeting and demanded that the government 'stop spending money to finance unions."

MASS DISPOSSESSES

All of the croppers who were evicted last January have been mailed dispossess notices by the landlords, and if the landlord-government-sharecropper committee recently set up by Governor Stark of Missouri, fails to work out some settlement satisfactory to the landlords by Feb. 1, these hundreds of starving people will again pick up their few belongings in a new hopeless search for homes and land.

Why does not that "democratic" and "humane" heart of Herbert Hoover and his Wall Street associates bleed for these miserably starved and unwanted people? Their situation, as Rev. Whitfield says, "is far more serious than the European situation. I wonder why Mr. Hoover doesn't think of them and their suffering."

These people need immediate financial aid to buy a piece of bread and perhaps a bottle of milk to keep their bodies together.

Here to break up the unions of the croppers and to render them helpless, the feudalistic-landlord czars make their own money and the government does nothing about it. In this county, croppers are never allowed to possess money—if they get a government subsidy check they must immediately transform it into tokens made by landlords at an exchange interest of 10 and 20 per cent on the dollar, which is redeemable only at landlord stores.

With this counterfeit money valued at a higher price than the dollar, the croppers are left to the "tender" mercy of the landlords. Contributions may be sent to the National Council to Aid Agricultural Workers, Room 400, 907 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C.

"If something isn't done about the cropper situation, the country will experience another disaster far more shocking than the Civil War."

It will be well for America to take heed to this warning of Rev. Whitfield



SHARECROPPERS VISIT MAYOR AT CITY HALL

The Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, leader of the Missouri roadside demonstration, and Blanche Fisher, 15-year-old daughter of a Missouri sharecropper, with Mr. La Guardia yesterday. Times Wide World

Mayor La Guardia's visitors at City Hall yesterday included a group of Venezuelan officials and a delegation of Southern sharecroppers headed by the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, Negro clergyman.

Colonel Isaias Medina, Venezuelan Minister of War and Marine, who arrived Wednesday on the Santa Paula of the Grace Line, arrived at City Hall late in the afternoon. He was accompanied by Major Alfredo Jurado, personal aide-de-camp to President Lopez Contreras of Venezuela; Major Alcide Quintero of the air force and Dr. Tomas Pacanins, Venezuelan Consul General here. Mayor La Guardia chatted with the group for about ten minutes and told them that this country was keenly interested in promoting Pan-American relations.

Colonel Medina, making his first visit here, said his sole mission was to attend the dedication of the new Venezuelan Embassy in Washington next month. He plans to tour the country to see "everything connected with the military art," including the United States Military Academy at West Point and various munition plants.

Earlier in the day the Mayor told the sharecroppers' group that many persons living in cities were entirely unaware of the "cruel poverty" that marked the lives of Southern tenant farmers. Even in prosperous times, he said, their existence was miserable, adding that, when crop conditions were impaired, "their lives are just unbearable." The Mayor said unemployment insurance should be applied to this group, since they were dependent on conditions over which they had no control.

TENANT FARMERS ARE UNMOLESTED

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 18. (ANP)—Last Wednesday, despite eviction notices received by 1,500 white and colored sharecroppers and tenant farmers of Southeast Missouri, not one family was forced to move and remain at least temporarily on the land of their employers.

Factors in the truce were an appeal to the landowners by Gov. Lloyd Stark and a heavy snow that fell on the eve of eviction deadline. Governor Stark, at a meeting in St. Louis with government officials, landowners and sharecroppers' representatives, asked the land owners to delay eviction proceedings until Feb. 1.

Leader of the colored croppers is the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, official of the Missouri Agricultural Workers association, who headed last January's demonstration. At that time 1,300 evicted tenant farmers and croppers, white and colored, camped on the roadside in the bitter cold and focused the eyes of the nation on the revolting situation in the cotton-producing counties of southeast Missouri.

Declaring that the present snow and cold weather would decimate the ranks of the demonstrants, Mr. Whitfield, after making a tour of the seven counties in the area involved, said: "We don't want to demonstrate in the cold and snow and our organization won't sponsor any."

Over 1,000 Mo Sharecroppers Face Eviction

Make Plans To Thwart Putting Them Out In Cold

SIKESTON, Mo. (CNS)—More than 1,000 sharecroppers and tenant farmer families, approximately 5,000 persons, faced eviction as big landowners posted eviction notices in seven counties of this state. A repetition of the Southeast Missouri sharecropper demonstration of last January, in which 500 evisted sharecroppers families sat down on the highways for several weeks, was reported possible unless emergency measures were taken immediately.

The eviction notices were posted within a few days of a conference held in St. Louis on the call of Governor Lloyd C. Stark to consider the plight of the croppers, and at which appeals were made to the landlords to postpone the projected evictions until "at least February 1." At the conference, it was said that 1,500 families were on the list for eviction, and that of these probably 1,000 have no place to which to go.

State and Federal officials sat in the Governor's conference with the landowners and sharecroppers.

As a start on the problem, Governor Stark urged on land operators that eviction proceedings be delayed until February 1, at least, and that no hasty action be forced while plans were being made to deal with the problem.

The Governor endorsed a set of recommendations drawn up by a committee he named, which included asking all Federal, State and County officials to aid, that the State Employment Service register tenants and sharecroppers unable to find locations for the coming year, and that the Farm Security administration expand its standard rehabilitation loan program, its recently initiated farm labor program and endeavor to work out with the landlords a program of approximately 500 labor homes on units of five to ten acres for dispossessed sharecroppers and tenants.

Representing the sharecroppers on the Governor's Committee were the Rev. Owen H. Dhitfield, Kirkwood and Charles E. Underhill.

CIO Leaders Demand Aid For Arkansas Croppers

Lead Delegation to State Capitol in Campaign to Assist 2,500 Sharecroppers Who Were Tractored Off the Land

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

FT. SMITH, Ark., Feb. 10.—"Arkansas must find a way of taking care of the 2,500 sharecroppers who have been tractored off their land."

That was the message given Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey of Arkansas Thursday by representatives of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO farm union.

The delegation consisted of two Negroes and a white man. Ed Harris of Blytheville, vice-president of the Arkansas UCAPAWA Council, and Henry Chance of Turrell, state secretary, spoke for the many members of their race and for the whites who are starving in cotton towns, unable to find farms or to get on relief. John Day of Fort Smith accompanied them as international representative of the union.

"These 2,500 people have no earthly way of earning a living," Harris declared. "They are barely keeping body and soul together with the help of friends and relatives who actually cannot spare the little assistance they give. Unless something is done they will be forced out on the highways, as the Missouri sharecroppers were last winter."

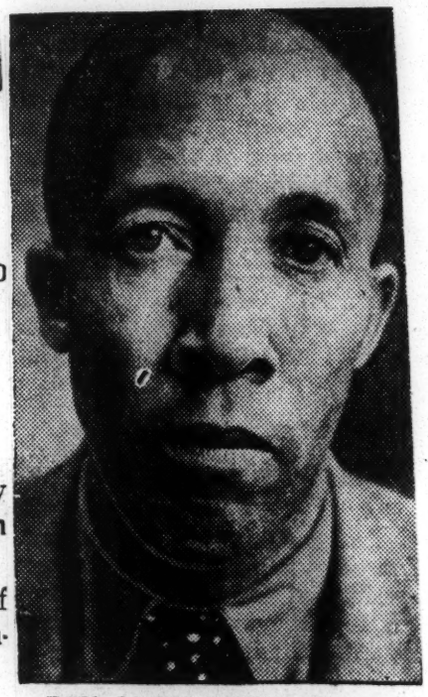
The union representatives had hoped to discuss the problem of the dispossessed tenant farmers with Gov. Carl Bailey. The governor, however, was in Washington leading an attack on the Cole bill which would establish Federal control over oil reserves and prevent the big oil companies from looting the nation's natural resources.

"Gov. Bailey is insisting loudly on state's rights," remarked Harris. "If the state want their rights, they must also accept their duties... It is the duty of Arkansas to see that farmers who have spent their lives growing cotton do not starve."

Arkansas has about 2,000,000 acres of state-owned land, claimed for unpaid taxes. While much of this land is too swampy or otherwise unfit for cultivation, some of it would be used to maintain homeless sharecroppers. Such a plan was advocated by the union leaders in their conference with the lieutenant governor.

"Well, we had our conference, but we didn't solve our problem," said Chance as he emerged from the capitol.

The delegation also talked to Little Rock officials of the Farm Security Administration, which is making a survey throughout the South of former sharecroppers who have been left to shift for themselves because of decreased cotton production and improved machinery. The UCAPAWA is urging increased funds for the FSA'S tenant rehabilitation program instead of the curtailment threatened by Congress.



REV. OWEN WHITFIELD, vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers (CIO).

Sharecropper Group Starts Land Project

CHARLESTON, Mo.—(A N P)—On a tract of land inside the Bird's Point-New Madrid floodway, a colored colony of 50 sharecropper families has settled itself to attempt a new plan of self-help in its fight for sustenance and homes. Calling themselves "The Christian Era," they intend making an effort to solve their problems without the aid of state or federal agencies.

The land, allotted them about 2,000 acres, is the property of the Tri-States Lumber company, and is being sold for $10 per acre with a 10 per cent down payment, the rest amortized over a 10-year period.

The land, apportioned into 40-acre parcels with a family to each, is virgin and fertile because of frequent overflows in past years. It is subject to artificial irrigation in the regulation of the Mississippi river.

The Christian Era will be headed by a Negro Board of Directors. A similar plan is being devised for white sharecroppers.

Governor Asks Second Delay In Evictions Missouri Croppers Notified

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—(ANP) — Gov. Stark last week again urged land owners in Southeast Missouri to extend grants in the time set for eviction of sharecroppers who have been notified to vacate their present home, pending completion of the survey being made by the State Employment Service in conjunction with the Federal Farm Security Administration.

When eviction notices were issued to 1500 tenant-farmers and sharecroppers in January, Gov. Stark intervened, asking landowners to await the outcome of resettlement plans. He stated last week that the various state and federal agencies still are working on the problem.

In reporting on the survey requested by Gov. Stark, Carl Wedeking, head of the District Employment Service office, said 600 families are listed without jobs, and 95 requests for farm labor have been received. "I don't know where they are going," he said.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI HAS PLENTY OF PICKERS

Migrant Labor Warned To Stay Away

NO HELP IS AVAILABLE

FSA Says That It Cannot Give Aid If They Become Stranded—Workers Who Are Registered Get First Chance

OCT 13 1940

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SIKESTON, Mo., Oct. 12. — A warning to migrant cotton pickers that there is already an adequate supply of labor in Southeastern Missouri, and that the Farm Security Administration cannot undertake to assist unneeded workers here, was issued Saturday by two FSA area officials.

"We are advised by the Missouri State Employment Service that the supply of pickers available in this area is more than adequate to fill all orders for workers that have been received from growers, and that numbers of pickers who are residents of this area are unable to find cotton to pick," said Marvin Gray, Assistant State Director, and Hans Baasch, Community Manager, in a joint statement.

Crop To Be Short

"Recent surveys show that ginning to date is 30 to 40 per cent below last year, and that the cotton crop will run approximately that much below average because of unfavorable weather conditions last Spring.

"It would be very unfortunate if unneeded workers migrate into this district, either in the hopes of finding work in the cotton fields or of obtaining Farm Security Administration assistance. Requests to the FSA for assistance made in behalf of present residents, will absorb all allocations available. It apepars impossible, therefore, for the FSA to assist new migrants into the area.

"The FSA expanded program, undertaken in co-operation with Governor Lloyd C. Stark's Special Committee, was designed to stabilize and improve the living conditions of farmers and farm workers needed in the area. Even if funds were available, it would be unwise to stabilize in this district surplus farm workers who could not hope to obtain sufficient work to provide themselves and their families with a minimum standard of living.

Registered Men First

"It is our understanding that the Employment Service, with a sufficient labor supply already listed, will offer employment first to those previously registered for work.

"There can be little but disappointment for persons who come into the area now, and we urge anyone thinking of migrating here for the cotton picking season to reconsider."

The Farm Security Administration opened its program for the stabilization of needed farm workers in Southeastern Missouri last Spring. Assistance has been given to more than 3000 families under the program.

Eight groups of workers homes, which will provide housing for 500 families, are yet to be completed and opened. However, more than 900 families were registered as being without places for the 1940 season by the Missouri Employment Service, which is also co-operating with the Governor's Committee. Those persons, now living in tents, makeshift shacks or doubled up in one and two room cabins—former residents of the area—are expected to receive prior consideration when applications for leases to the new homes are considered.

GOVERNOR STARK ASKS LANDOWNERS TO DELAY ACTION

Call 1-19-40 Kansas City Mo

1,500 Sharecroppers and Tenant Farmers Receive Notices; Leaders Hope Authorities Will Save Situation

TO GET STATE AID

SIKESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—In order to forestall a repetition of last January's roadside demonstration of homeless sharecroppers, the Missouri State Employment service Thursday began a registration of tenant farmers and sharecroppers who had received eviction notices. This was the first initial step in a plan for relief and rehabilitation agreed upon last week at a conference ordered by Gov. Lloyd C. Stark.

A camp has been stationed at Harviell near Poplar Bluff by 300 of the homeless who took part in last year's demonstration. This camp of log cabins was made possible by the purchase of a 91-acre tract by the St. Louis committee for the rehabilitation of the sharecropper.

SIKESTON, Mo.—(ANP)—Last Wednesday, despite eviction notices received by 1,500 white and colored sharecroppers and tenant farmers of Southeast Missouri, not one family was forced to move and remain, at least temporarily on the land of their employes.

Factors in the truce were an appeal to the landowners by Governor Lloyd Stark and a heavy snow that fell on the eve of eviction deadline day. Governor Stark, at a meeting in St. Louis with Government officials, landowners and sharecroppers' representatives, asked the landowners to delay eviction proceedings until February 1.

Leader of the colored croppers is the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, official of the Missouri Agricultural Workers association, who headed last January's demonstration. At that time, 1,300 evicted tenant farmers and croppers, white and colored, camped on the roadside in the bitter cold and focused the eyes of the nation on the revolting situation in the cotton - producing counties of Southeast Missouri.

Declaring that the present snow and cold weather would decimate the ranks of the demonstrants, Mr. Whitfield, after making a tour of the seven counties in the area involved, said: "We don't want to demonstrate in the cold and snow and our organization won't sponsor any."

Leaders of three organizations representing the farm workers are hopeful that intervention by state and federal authorities may yet save the situation. The croppers and tenant farmers have long contended that land owners have taken advantage of the cotton control program sponsored by the Agricultural Adjustment administration. The landowners, say the croppers, have not shared the government payments with the workers as the law requires.

An appeal has been made to President Roosevelt and Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, for amendment of the law to make certain the cotton workers get their share of crop payments.

5,000 Persons To Be Affected By Posting Of Notices By Owners

Governor of Missouri Urges Action be Postponed Until at Least February 1

SIKESTON, Mo.—(SNS)—More than 1,000 sharecroppers and tenant farmer families, approximately 5,000 persons, faced eviction this week as landowners posted eviction notices in seven counties of this state. A repetition of the Southeast Missouri sharecropper demonstrations of last January, in which 500 evicted sharecropper families sat down on the highways for several weeks, was reported possible unless emergency measures were taken immediately.

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1-14-40

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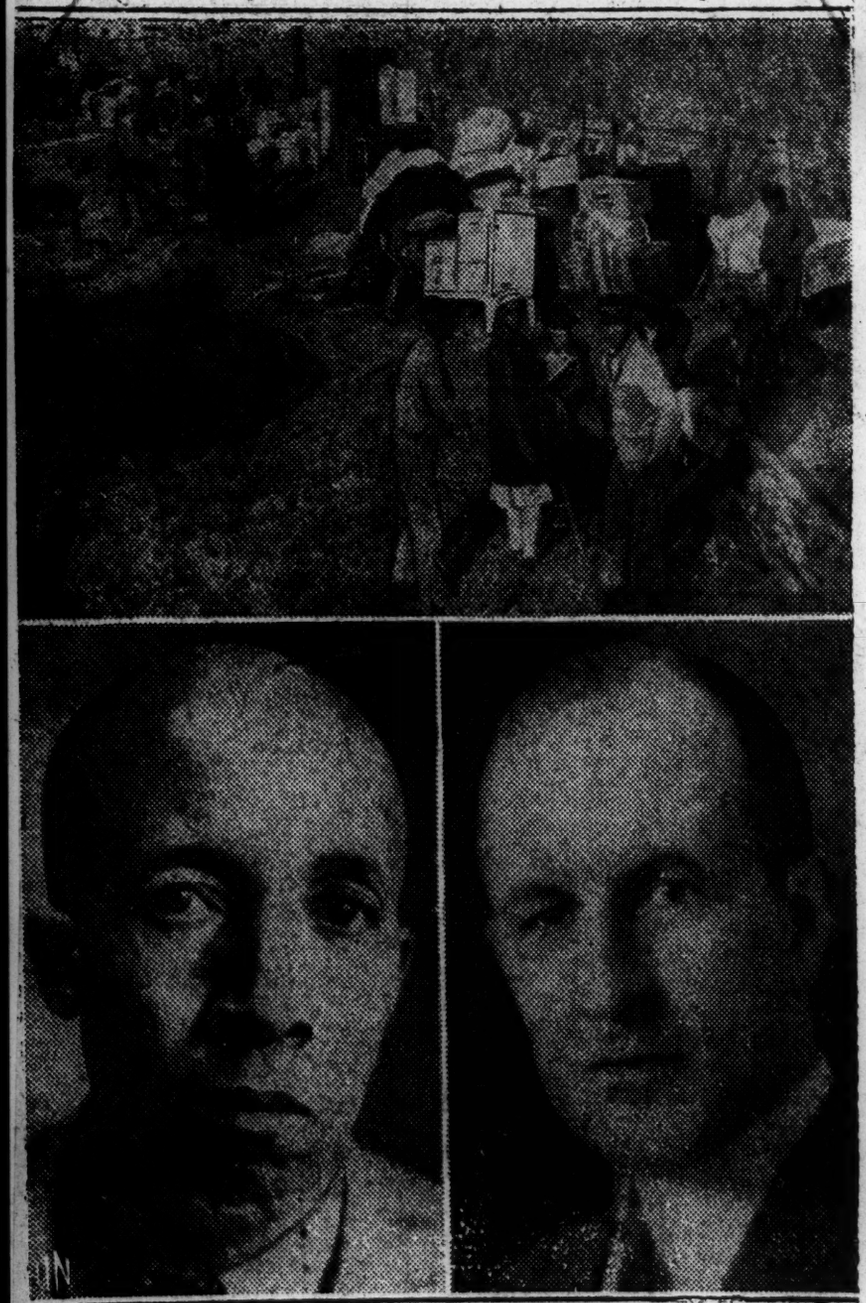
State and Federal officials sat in the Governor's conference with the landowners and sharecroppers.

As a start on the problem, Governor Stark urged on land operators that eviction proceedings be delayed until Feb. 1, at least, and that no hasty action be forced while plans were being made to deal with the problem.

The Governor then endorsed a set of recommendations drawn up by a committee he named, which included asking all Federal, State and county officials to aid, that the State Employment Service register tenants and sharecroppers unable to find locations for the coming year, and that the Farm Security Administration expend its standard rehabilitation loan program, its recently initiated farm labor program and endeavor to work out with the landlords a program of approximately 500 labor homes on units of five to ten acres for dispossessed sharecroppers and tenants.

Representing the sharecroppers on the Governor's Committee were the Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, Kirkwood and Charles E. Underhill.

...eek To Help 'Croppers



First cooperative effort by landowners, sharecroppers, Federal and State officials to alleviate distress of poor whites and Negroes pushed off their land (as pictured at top) by the tractor invasion of the South began through the initiative of Governor Stark (bottom right) of Missouri. Representatives of all interested parties were called to the conference in Washington as 1,500 Missouri families received eviction notices again this year. Owen H. Whitfield (bottom left) organizer of last year's demonstration and vice president of the cannery works, was selected as one of the 'croppers' principal spokesmen. (HN).

Eviction Notices Are Ignored By 'Croppers

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AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

MISSOURI

FARM LABOR PLENTIFUL, WARNING OF WPA SAYS

Southeast Missouri Fears Lack Of Cotton Choppers

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HAYTI, Mo., May 29.—Reports that farmers in this area were encountering difficulty in employing enough cotton choppers to fill their needs because of a disagreement over the daily wage has caused the WPA to issue a warning from its district office at Farmington, Mo., that there are in Southeast Missouri "approximately 9000 certified men either employed on WPA or unemployed who can fill the needs of the farmers."

The warning, released this week to workers throughout this area, was signed by George B. Snider, manager of District No. 4, and pointed out that the office had "been advised by the Missouri State Employment Service that considerable difficulty is being encountered in supplying 5000 requested cotton choppers to farmers in the seven cotton producing counties of Southeast Missouri because of a question about the amount of the daily wage."

In explaining the WPA's position, the warning set out it was issued "to avoid if possible an additional influx of migratory laborers into the state, resulting in the majority of such persons later becoming state and Federal relief clients."

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITIONS

NATIONAL COTTON CONFERENCE

LEADS SHARECROPPERS TO NATIONAL CAPITAL

Rev. Whitfield Heads 25 From 6 States

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Headed by Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, a caravan of 25 sharecropper delegates representing tens of thousands of cotton families in six Southern States arrived in Washington Monday morning to attend a two-day National Cotton Conference. The Conference was called by the United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers, affiliated to the CIO. Whitfield, who has recently been appointed by Governor Lloyd C. Stark of Missouri to a joint sharecropper-landlord committee to work out a solution to the problem of evictions, led the famous roadside demonstration last year.

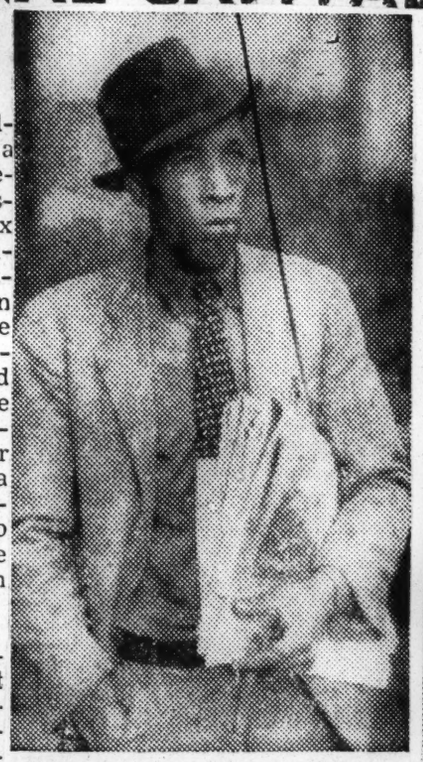
Petition Roosevelt and Wallace

The delegates brought a petition addressed to President Roosevelt and Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace signed by tens of thousands of tenants, sharecroppers and wage workers throughout the South. The petition urged that action be taken to end wholesale evictions, provide adequate relief, secure rural housing projects, and amend the AAA to require Federal setting of minimum wages in the cotton fields as a condition of landlords receiving Federal subsidies and benefit checks.

Government Officials to Address Convention

Assistant Administrator R. W. Hudgens of Farm Security Administration, Fred Nedved of the Rural Housing Division of the USHA, and Fred Rausch of the Works Progress Administration were slated to address the Conference at its sessions in Room 0340, South Agricultural Building. Representatives were also to speak from the AAA.

Delegations conferred with Nathan Strauss, Administrator for the USHA; with Dr. William Alexander, head of Farm Security Administration and Miss Jo-



REV. OWEN H. WHITFIELD

sephine Roche, recently appointed chairman of the President's Inter-departmental Committee of Health.

The delegates who attended the Conference are from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana and Alabama.

Sharecroppers Are Guests of First Lady



WASHINGTON
(for ANP)

The Rev. Owen Whitfield, sharecroppers' leader of New Madrid, Mo., and his wife were guests of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House, for a half hour on Tuesday of last week, while here to attend the two-day conference sponsored by labor organizations.

He said the First Lady discussed possibilities of resettlement projects on unused land in Texas, along the Mississippi River and in other sections, and promised to direct attention to the sorry plight of sharecroppers through her syndicated column in the daily papers.

SHARECROPPERS AT CONFERENCE



The group shown above were delegates to the National Cotton Conference which was held in Washington last week, called by the United Cannery, Agricultural Packing and Allied Workers of America, a CIO affiliate. Sessions of the convention were held in the South Agricultural Building and the group was addressed by R. W. Hudgens, assistant FSA administrator; Fred Nedved of the Rural Housing Division of the USHA; and Fred Rausch of the WPA. Owen W. Whitfield, fifth from left, addressed the group and an audience of several hundred persons at a public meeting which was held at Pierce Hall, on Tuesday night.

85 Citizens To Sponsor National Sharecroppers Week March 4-11

NEW YORK, Feb. 2—Six-teen noted leaders have joined with 69 white distinguished Americans in the sponsorship of the fourth annual National Sharecroppers Week which will be observed from March 4 through March 10, it was announced this week by Miss Pauli Murray, secretary of the movement.

Among the sponsors are Dr. W. E. B. DuBois of Atlanta university; T. Arnold Hill of the National Urban League; Prof. Abram L. Harris of Howard university; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of the Independent Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Miss Murray described National Sharecroppers week as an annual effort to acquaint the public with the sharecropper problem and to raise funds to finance a program of remedial action.

She explained that it is conducted under the auspices of the Southern Tenant Farmers' union, the sharecropper labor organization, and the Workers Defense League, its official defense agency.

Howard Kester, secretary of the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen, is acting as treasurer. Offices have been established in New York City.

LaGuardia Behind Move

Other sponsors of the "Week" include Mayor F. H. LaGuardia of New York City, Carrie Chapman Catt, Theodore Dreiser, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, President Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina, Carey McWilliams, the noted authority on migratory labor, William Allen Neilson, president emeritus of Smith college, Bishop Edward L. Parsons of San Francisco, Norman Thomas, the Socialist leader, Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and William Allen White.

Other noted leaders who are sponsoring the "Week" include Mrs. Ernest R. Alexander of the Harlem Y.M.C.A., Frank R. Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, Hubert T. Delaney, Tax Commissioner of New York City. Rev. William Lloyd Imes of New York, Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University, Professors Alain Locke and Dexey A. Wilkerson of Howard University, William Pickens of the N.A.A.C.P., Augusta Savage, the celebrated artist, and Frances H. Williams of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Muni is Chairman

Miss Murray also announced that Paul Muni, distinguished screen and stage star, had accepted the chairmanship of a theatre committee for the "Week" and that Mr. Muni would be assisted by artists and impresarios of the rank of Tallulah Bankhead, Angna Enters, the celebrated mime, and Louis Schaffer, director of Labor Stage, Inc.

Professor Harris and Dr. Mary E Wooley, president emeritus of Mt Holyoke college, are acting as co-chairmen of the educators committee.

Religious leaders include Rev John Lovejoy Elliott of Ethical Culture Society, Harold E. Fey of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Rev John Hayes Holmes, Rabbi Edward L. Israel of Baltimore, Rev. John Howland Lathrop of New York Prof. Reinhold Niobuhr of Union Theological Seminary and Kirby.

Sharecroppers' Week Supported By 85 Leaders

NEW YORK CITY—(SNS)—Six-teen noted leaders of Negro thought and action have joined with 69 other distinguished Americans in the sponsorship of the fourth annual National Sharecroppers Week which will be observed in 1940 from March 4th through March 10th, it was announced this week by Miss Pauli Murray, secretary of the "Week".

Among the sponsors are Prof. W. E. B. DuBois of Atlanta University; T. Arnold Hill of the National Urban League, Prof. Abram L. Harris of Howard University, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Independent Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Murray described National Sharecroppers Week as an annual effort to acquaint the public with the sharecropper problem and to raise funds to finance a program of remedial action.

Other sponsors of the "Week" include Mayor F. H. LaGuardia of New York City, Carrie Chapman Catt, Theodore Dreiser, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, President Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina, Carey McWilliams, the noted authority on migratory labor, William Allen Neilson, president emeritus of Smith College, Bishop Edward L. Parsons of San Francisco, Norman Thamos, the Socialist leader, Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and William Allen White.

Other noted Negroes who are sponsoring the "Week" include Mrs. Ernest R. Alexander of the Harlem Y. M. C. A., Frank R Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, Hubert T. Delaney, Tax Commissioner of New York City, Rev. William Lloyd Imes of New York, Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University, Professors Alain Locke and Dexey A Wilkerson of Howard University William Pickens of the NAACP. Augusta Savage, the celebrated artist, and Frances H. Williams of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Professor Harris and Dr. Mary E. Woolley, president emeritus of Mt Holyoke College, are acting as co-chairman of the Educators Committee; on the committee are Professor William R. Amberson of the University of Maryland, Lewis Corey, the economist, Professor John Dewey of Columbia University, Stephen Duggan of the Institute of International Education, Professor Irwin Edman of Yale University, Prof. Broadus Mitchell of Occidental College, Professors Henry Pratt Fairchild and Sidney Hook of New York University, Professor E. Clarence Nixon of the University of Missouri and Dr. James T. Shotwell of the Carnegie Foundation.

Sharecroppers' Week

This week has been designated National Sharecroppers' Week by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. From Monday to Saturday the union will conduct its annual appeal for contributions to enable it to carry on its activities.

Undoubtedly many of the objectives of the S. T. F. U. are impractical, or at least highly controversial. Nevertheless, the union is deserving of support. For it is doing a useful service in calling the attention of the American people to the plight of millions of sharecroppers in the cotton-growing States and other millions elsewhere who live precariously in dire poverty.

The sharecropper is handicapped not merely by poverty but also by ignorance, bred of poverty, which prevents him from becoming efficient and keeps him from realizing the extent of his deprivations. The first task of an organization representative of such underprivileged groups is, therefore, educational. The sharecropper has to be encouraged to become a more articulate and active member of the community in which he lives, usually voteless, and often without fixed abode. Through organization the isolated individual acquires confidence, a feeling of security that makes it easier for him to defend his rights and proclaim his needs.

As the Southern Tenant Farmers Union says, that organization is far more than a labor union. It is a rallying point for a reform movement designed to raise the social and economic status of millions of agricultural workers, whites and Negroes, who are literally the dispossessed of the earth. A union organized to press the claims of these people may not provide a solution of the problems created by the Southern sharecropper system. But it can compel the Nation to consider the needs and plan for the relief of a group of Americans who are, as the S. T. F. U. says, "truly democracy's stepchildren."

Urges Aid For Share-croppers



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, spoke at the annual National Share-croppers' Week dinner in New York. She is shown here talking with H. L. Butler of Memphis, Tennessee. Butler is president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which will give out the money collected to help share-croppers.

'PEONAGE' ON FARMS IN JERSEY CHARGED

Times

System of Recruiting Negroes in South to Pick Potatoes Scored at House Inquiry

8-1-40

WORK DONE BY CONTRACT

New York.

Contractors Mercilessly Exploit Workers, Witness Declares at Final Session Here

By BYRON DARNTON

The method by which Negro workers are recruited in the South each year to pick New Jersey's vast potato crop was described as a "damnable system of peonage" by a witness at yesterday's session of a Congressional committee investigating the destitute migrant problem.

The witness—Arthur J. Edwards, representing a group of New Jersey Congregational and Christian churches—was the last to testify in the opening series of hearings held at the Federal Court Building. The committee will hold additional hearings at migrant centers in other part of the country, and in January will recommend legislation to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Edwards said that Negro workers were brought up from States as far south as Florida in labor contractors' trucks in circumstances that were "hardly believable." The trucks are jammed to capacity, he said, and they never stop except for meals.

He placed in evidence a report of the Home Mission Council and Council of Women for Home Missions, 297 Fourth Avenue, which asserted that in many cases the contractors mercilessly exploited the workers.

According to this report, prepared by an organization that has been doing social work in the area for years, the contractor makes an agreement with the individual farmer to dig, grade and sack his potatoes at a set rate per sack. The farmer also agrees to pay $2 for the transportation of each worker.

"The farmer has three responsibilities—supplying the tools, housing the workers and paying the transportation costs of the number of workers he employs," the report said. "The workers receive their money from the contractor."

How the System Works

As the system works out, the report continued, the amount paid by the contractors for picking and grading 250 bags of potatoes is $8.25, but they receive perhaps as much as $20 for that service from the grower, making a profit of $11.25. In addition, the contractor collects not only from the grower but also from the individual laborer for transportation, usually getting $3.50 from each, according to the report.

"And if the contractor is to take the workers back after the season, it is $3.50 more," the mission investigators found. "If they don't pay that he takes them to Virginia and abandons them since, by law, he must remove them from New Jersey.

"The contractor charges the workers for everything. Most of the families that come up are as much as $25 to $50 in debt to him before they earn a dime."

The real profits, the report added, are not from the spread between the amount the contractor receives from the farmer and the amount he pays the members of his gang, but from the "exploitation of these miserable workers who make the contractor's living for him."

This testimony contradicted evidence at previous committee hearings given by New Jersey potato growers. Growers' representatives said that they paid pickers directly, not through contractors, and that proof of the satisfaction of the pickers with their jobs was the fact that many of them returned year after year.

All this evidence will finally play an important part in the committee's findings, as one of the questions in which Chairman John H. Tolan, California Democrat, is most interested is the operation of labor contractors who supply workers across State lines.

Would Build Model Camp

Mr. Edwards told the committee that he had sounded out the Farm Relief Administration on the possibility of establishing a permanent camp for migrants at Port Norris, N. J., where testimony indicated that more than 1,000 Negroes employed in the oyster industry lived in dangerously unhealthy shacks. This camp would be on the pattern of those operated by the FSA in California and other large migrant communities. Mr. Edwards also advocated the setting up of two mobile FSA camps to follow vegetable and other crops in the State.

The FSA, this witness said, had given him some encouragement, but did not wish to act unless the local authorities so requested.

"Locally," Mr. Edwards explained, "there is fear that if such housing were available the migrants might not want to go home when the season was over."

Harold A. Lett, executive secretary of the New Jersey Urban League, told the committee that the Port Norris oyster workers lived in "the worst imaginable shacks, erected on stilts on the sand flats." He added that "only a miracle and the good work of the State Health Department" had prevented that community from becoming a serious threat to the health of the surrounding area notably in typhoid fever and malaria.

Mr. Lett, himself a Negro, also testified that "unthinking employers" were contributing to a growing problem of racial antipathies by bringing in large numbers of Negro workers and, contrary to law, releasing them on the community when there was no more work for them.

Mrs. Caroline O'Day, New York Representative-at-Large, expressed the belief that sweatshop labor for children had ceased to be a factor in industry but was becoming a growing factor in agriculture.

At the end of the hearing Representative Tolan explained that the investigation had been opened in New York in an effort to dramatize the fact that the migrant problem is not found merely in the agricultural sections of the West and South. The hearings had brought out, he said, that large cities also have their problems with migrants seeking industrial and service jobs, and any Federal program to deal with the question would have to cover such persons.

6-1-40

AGRICULTURE - 1940
LABOR

SOUTH CAROLINA

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
November 14, 1940

Two colored farm laborers discussing their work and the wages they were receiving, one of them remarking. "I am going back to work tomorrow, but the boss is going to pay me more money." "How if he won't pay any more," replied the other. "He is going to pay me more, or else," was the answer. At that point the boss who had heard the conversation stepped up and said, "Or else what." "Or else I will work right on." said the wage hand

Tenants Will Be Heard On Benefit Cuts

Senate Group Will Get Plea For Minimum In Farm Wages

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(AP)—A Senate committee agreed today to hear representatives of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union before acting on a bill that would impose restrictions on large benefit payments under the farm program.

Senator Frazier (R), North Dakota, presiding at hearings on a bill already passed by the House, said the tenant union has asked for a chance to testify before the Senate agriculture subcommittee about March 1. Senators Bilbo (D), Mississippi, and Gillette (D), Iowa, thereupon proposed that they be heard.

A spokesman for the House committee investigating un-American activities said that group had investigated the tenant union and expected to hold public hearings later.

Writing from Memphis, Tenn., President J. R. Butler stated that the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union was anxious to provide for payment of fair minimum wages to farm laborers as a condition for land-owners receiving benefit payments under the government farm program.

Butler said the tenant union would have representatives in Washington early in March.

Earlier Deane F. Stahmann, Las Cruces, N. M., operator of 3,600 acres of irrigated land, told senators that the proposed payment restrictions might force large irrigated farms in Arizona, New Mexico and California to adopt the tenant and sharecropper system of the deep South.

W. T. Wynn, Greenville, Miss., who said he was speaking for large plantation operators in the rich Mississippi delta cotton area, testified that if Congress reduced payments to these owners "it would wreak havoc with the entire economy of the delta."

"We are cooperating nearly 100 per cent in the program," Wynn said. "We do not consider the conservation payments as a dole or a gratuity. Conservation of soil resources is a national benefit."

The plantation owner said the penalty of three cents a pound on sale of cotton by those not participating in the crop control program virtually forced compliance.

"We're in a vice," he said. "We can't get out of the cotton program unless we turn to corn, soybeans or crops that would upset the economy of other regions."

Wynn said the delta owners and tenants were satisfied with the Federal program but that owners sincerely believed they were entitled to their half of benefit payments, without limitations.

"It's the owner who makes all the sacrifice for conservation," Wynn said. "He takes out productive land, buys seed for green crops on it, and even pays the tenant to plant and care for this. The tenant makes no sacrifice and gets half the payments."

Ralph A. Young, Little Rock, Ark., appearing for the Agricultural Council of Arkansas, urged that some provision be made for cotton operators who were forced to use paid laborers instead of tenants or sharecroppers.

Young said it was impossible to operate some farms by tenants and asked senators to avoid reducing benefit payments in these instances.

Senator Frazier asked Young what wage was paid day laborers on these farms.

"About a dollar a day for field work," Young replied.

"Are they employed the year around?" Frazier asked.

"Whenever the weather permits, although they are hired on a daily basis," Young said. "I furnish families of my workers the year around, except cotton picking time when I hire a few outside."

TENANT FARMERS ENTER PLEA FOR FAIR WAGE PLAN

Senate Committee Hears Representatives of Southern Rural Union

(The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 22.—A Senate committee agreed today to hear representatives of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union before acting on a bill that would impose restrictions on large benefit payments under the farm program.

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Union Investigated

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Not Considered Dole

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TENANT FARMER UNION WILL GIVE TESTIMONY

Senators Studying Parity Plan Agree To Hear Group

WYNN SPEAKS FOR DELTA

Mississippian Says Reduced Payments To Big Cotton Growers Would Wreak Havoc With Entire Economy

By The Associated Press

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Hearings Planned

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"Makes Sacrifices"

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The law at present provides a maximum payment of $10,000 to the landlord. The proposed amendment would remove the maximum payment and substitute a maximum of $5000 for producers who do not share with tenants.

First Lady To Award Prizes

Essay Winners To Gather At New York Dinner

On Sunday evening, March 10th Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will be a guest at the annual New York dinner of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, where she will award prizes to winners of the national student essay contest on sharecropping. The contest is one of the features of National Sharecropper Week which is being observed from March 4th to March 10th.

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York City heads the long list of sponsors for National Sharecroppers Week which includes A. Philip Randolph, William Lloyd Imes, J. Finley Wilson, Charles S. Johnson, Walter White. W. E. B. DuBois, Alain Locke, Hubert Delany, Abram Harris, Doxie A. Wilkinson and many others.

NATIONAL OBSERVANCE

It has become an annual custom for National Sharecroppers Week to be observed throughout America to acquaint the nation with the sharecropper's problem of fighting for the abolition of the poll tax, for anti-lynching legislation. for increased civil liberties, for better housing, education, health facilities and a decent standard of living. This year National Sharecroppers Week activities will be conducted at Baltimore, Boston, St. Louis, Memphis, Akron. Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit Cincinnati, New York, Kansas City Milwaukee Los Angeles, Newark. Philadelphia and Twin Cities, Minn. NAACP branches throughout the country have arranged forums and teas.

National Sharecropper Week comes as the fifth anniversary of the organization of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. During this week dinners and benefits will be given to raise funds for the union. The members and leaders of the STFU, both Negro and white, have risked their lives to build a union in the face of the most arrogant terrorism America has ever known. The organization now numbers 40.000 people drawn from America's half million sharecropping families forty-four percent of which are Negroes.

AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR CONDITION

SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS UNION

Mrs. FDR Will Be Guest Of Tenant Farmers Union



MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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agriculturev
AGRICULTURE- 1940
LABOR

TENNESSEE

INSTRUCT NEGROES IN UNIONIZATION METHODS IN SOUTH

Memphis — A C. I. O. course in unionization methods was begun here last week under the direction of Claude Williams, with 20 representatives from Southern cotton states enrolled. The students, mostly farm workers transported here by the United Cannery, Agricultual, Packing and Allied Workers of American Union (C. I. O.) will return to their respective states to work in the fall as tenant farm organizers, it was announced.

Instruction of the class, which has included talks by Miles Norton, director of the Highlander Foke School at Monteagle, Tenn.; Harry Koger, president of the Southern Cotton States Council; and Winnefred Chappel, formerly of the Commonwealth College of Mena, Ark.; neccessitates long hours spent in the class room, according to reports. In return for this each student receives room and board along with his course of instruction.

Williams, director of the class, was ousted from the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union in 1938 for alleged Communistic activities. It was claimed at this time by J. R. Butler, head of the Tenant Farmers' Union, that a report of Williams' alliance with the Communistic movement at Comonwealth College was revealed. A paper said to have been discovered among the personal belongings of Williams, then serving as director of the Mena, Ark. school reads:

Since the organization of the school in August, 1937, when a Party member became director of the school there has been on the campus complete political unity, an absence of such outside or disturbing elements as previously existed, and a conscientious adherence to tional and field work. Commonwealth is possibly the Party's most strategic position from which to work at this time in the South, where the danger of Fascism is greatest."

Williams admitted having the paper in his possession, but denied any knowledge of it, declaring that one of the other members of the school had drawn it up and presented it for his inspection. He also denied having a membership in the Communist party.

At the expiration of the unionization class, now being held in the headquarters of the National Maritime Union, Williams will continue the program on various farms for the purpose of stressing his teachings, he said.

Cotton Pickers Needed

Three highly significant photographs were published in yesterday's editions of The Commercial Appeal. They showed cotton fields ripe for the picking with nobody working in the rows. They showed transport trucks empty of the pickers they did not collect. They showed a long line of unemployed seeking industrial jobs which do not exist. Those seeking the jobs were, for the most, unskilled laborers who would be misfits in skilled industry but who would make fine cotton pickers.

There is no way to compel a jobless man to go into the cotton fields and assist in harvesting the crop which, for the sake of the economy of this area, must be gotten in. Most surely, however, the maximum of persuasive argument should be used to convince the jobless that picking cotton is better than no work at all, that payment is made at the end of each day's work, and that transportation is furnished. It may not be the most desirable type of work but it is certainly better than no work at all.

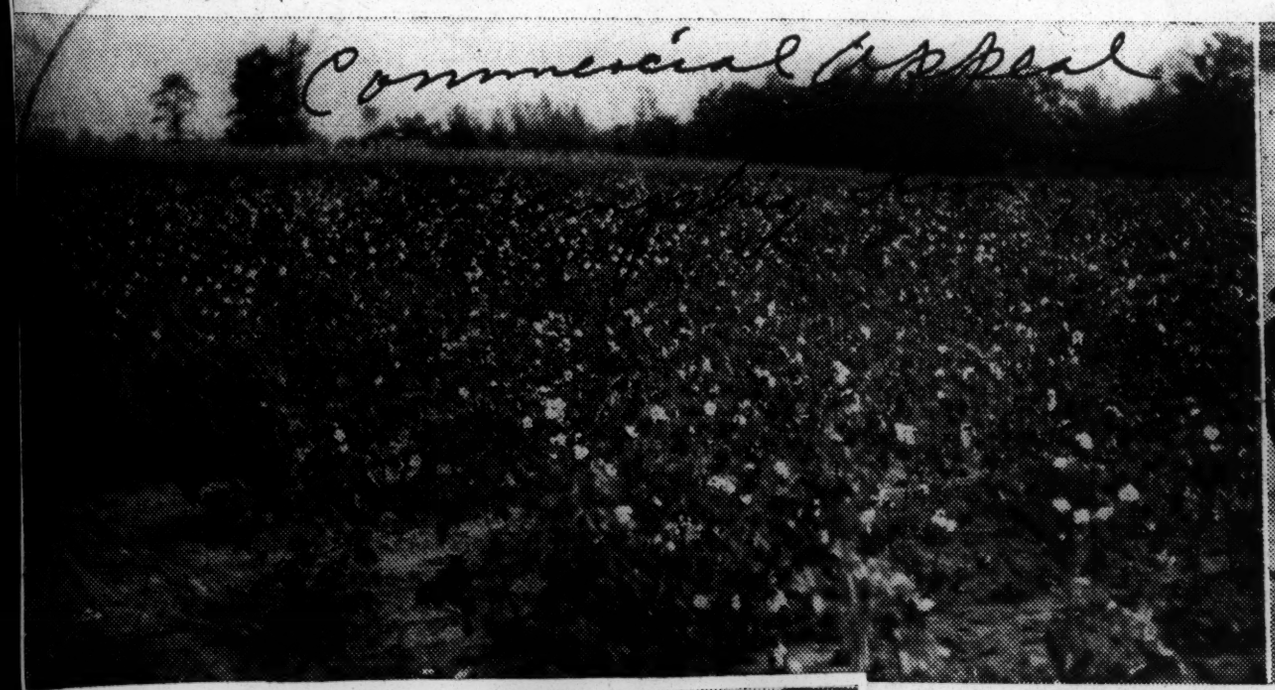
No sympathy should be wasted on an able-bodied unemployed laborer who remains idle while the crop is unharvested. If he goes hungry and unsheltered it is his fault.

OCT 16 1940

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LABOR CONDITIONS

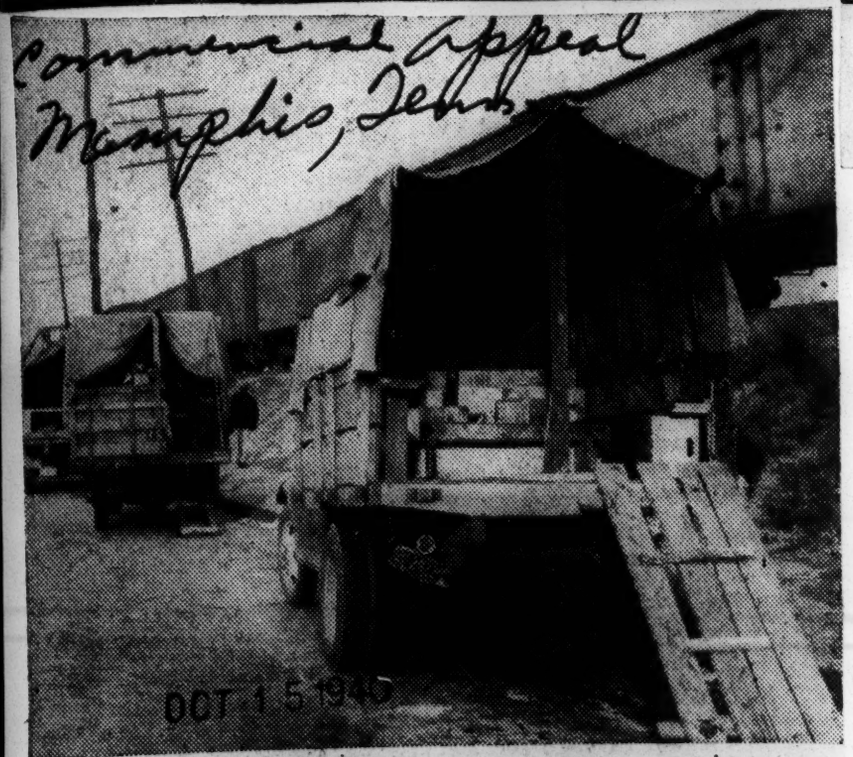
TENNESSEE

Hands Which Could Pluck South's White Riches Stay In Idle Pockets





Fields of the MidSouth stretch to the horizon white with the cotton while planters search for cotton pickers. Every morning they send trucks to Virginia Avenue for pickers but some of the trucks return empty. Meantime, surplus unskilled laborers line up by the hundreds at 199 South Second for industrial jobs.



These three trucks remained all but empty yesterday morning though scores of other trucks loaded with pickers had left for the fields and a scattering of unemployed workers remained nearby, uninterested in cotton picking. The Memphis Public Employment Center, supported by Federal, state and city taxes, operates both the agricultural office at 815 Arkansas and the industrial office at 199 South Second. -Staff Photos by Caldwell.